2024
Annual Town Report

Town of Belchertown

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Report Cover Image by: Andrea Filipkowski
"Winter Scene on Town Common"

2024 ELECTED OFFICIALS

Almoners - Whiting Street and Susan M.D. Bridgman Funds

Paul Anziano	5/2025
Linda Tsoumas	5/2025

Trustees – Calvin Bridgman Fund

Mary Olberding	5/2025
Rich Prager (elected 5/13/24)	5/2026
Kenneth H Snow	5/2027

Board of Assessors

Donald L Minney	5/2024
Raymond G Goff	5/2025
Loring M Caney, Jr.	5/2026
Craig L Tommila	5/2027

Board of Health

Leeanne Connolly	5/2025
James F Potter	5/2025
Kenneth Elstein	5/2026
David N Gottsegen	5/2026
Colleen Durosheа	5/2027

Housing Authority

Nancy Delgado Bachmann	5/2025
Brian J Rooney (appt. 9/16/24)	5/2025
Edward Harnois – Tenant Board Member	5/2027
Marie Ciosek (res. 9/26/24)	5/2029
David Fries (res. 7/29/24)	5/2029
Vacant – State Seat	

Moderator

Benjamin Farrell	5/2026

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District Committee Member

Francesco Dell'Olio	11/2024
Lorraine F Alves	11/2026
John Sullivan	11/2028

Planning Board

Justin Rosienski	5/2024
Michael A Hofler	5/2025
Daniel R. Beaudette	5/2026
Elizabeth Pols	5/2027
Bjorn Markeson	5/2028
Leonard D Bilodeau	5/2029

School Committee

Natalie G Santana	5/2025
Heidi G Gutekenst	5/2026
Lamikco Magee	5/2026
Ruby Bansal	5/2027
Amy BW Lamothe	5/2027

Select Board

Ronald Aponte	5/2024
Margaret Louraine	5/2024
Edward Boscher	5/2025
Jennifer Turner	5/2025
Lesa J Lessard Pearson	5/2026
Whitney Jorns Kuhnlenz	5/2027
Nicole A Miner	5/2027

Town Clerk

Theresa Camerlin	5/2027

2024 APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Affordable Housing Tax Abatement Review Committee

ALL SERVE TO FINAL REPORT

Doug Albertson – Town Planner
Steven Williams – Town Manager
Jennifer Turner – Select Board
Sarah Mann – Treasurer/Collector
John Whelihan – Director of Assessments

Agricultural Commission

Tom Roberts – Assoc. Member	6/30/24
Eric Bernardin	6/30/25
Louise Butler	6/30/25
Lori Carver	6/30/26
Tammy Ryan	6/30/26
Tyler Bergeron – Assoc. Member (full member 7/1/24)	6/30/27
Ben Feldman – Assoc. Member (res. 12/6/24)	6/30/25
Elizabeth Vaughan – Assoc. Member	6/30/25
Kenneth Conkey – Assoc. Member (appt. 1/11/24)	6/30/26
Thomas Shattuck – Assoc. Member (appt. 9/5/24)	6/30/26

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Committee

ALL SERVE TO FINAL REPORT

Paul Adzima, Coordinator
Max Bock
Eric LeBeau
Steven Williams

Animal Control Advisory Board

Chrystal Greenleaf	6/30/24
Vacant	6/30/25
Lori Carver	6/30/25
Daniel Beaudette (appt. 1/16/24)	6/30/26
Cristine Mincheff (appt. 1/16/24)	6/30/26

Animal Control Officer

Anna Kuralt-Fenton	4/30/25

Assistant Animal Control Officers

Sarah Byrnes	4/30/25
Jessica LaBonte	4/30/25
Janet Lipscomb	4/30/25

Director of Assessments

John Whelihan	6/30/25

Belchertown Age & Dementia Friendly Implementation Group

(Changed to a 5 member board 6/11/24 each with 3 year terms)

Ronald Aponte – Select Board	6/30/24
Becky Martin – Community Member	6/30/24
Steven Williams – Town Manager	6/30/24
Doug Albertson – Town Planner	6/30/27
Jessica Langlois – Senior Center	6/30/27
Linda Leduc – Director of DPW	6/30/27
Kirsten Krieger – Health Community	6/30/27
Gretchen O'Neil – Community Member	6/30/27

Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force Committee

Charly Oliva – Town Hall Rep.	6/30/24
Stephanie Charbonnet – Community Mbr	6/30/25
Vincent Daponte – Police Dept. Rep.	6/30/25
Justine Dymond – Community Member (appt. 9/19/24)	6/30/25
Joanne Land-Kazlauskas – Community Member	6/30/25
Delbert Martinez – Town Employee (appt. 9/19/24)	6/30/25
Jonathan North – Community Member (appt. 10/31/24)	6/30/25
Zenaida Ortega – Community Member	6/30/25

Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT)

Ronald Aponte – Select Board Rep	6/30/24
Jill Rossi – Community Member	6/30/24
Nick Southwick-Hall – Community Mbr	6/30/24
Angela Battle (apt. 12/30/24)	6/30/25
Andrea Crete – Director of Public Health	6/30/25
Dr. Kim Dewey – Community Member	6/30/25
Rev. Michelle Grube – Pastor (res. 12/4/24)	6/30/25
Kristen Hoag – Community Member	6/30/25
Debra Keefe – School Nurse Leader	6/30/25
Jason Krol – School Resource Officer	6/30/25
Neil Lozier – Police Department	6/30/25

2024 Appointed Officials, Continued

Alene Motta – Parent Drug Free Community Sector Representative	6/30/25
Kevin Pacunas – Police Chief	6/30/25

Belchertown Scholarship Fund Committee

Ruby Bansal – School Committee Rep	6/30/24
Lorraine Alves – Pathfinder Rep	6/30/25
Diane Brown – Community Member	6/30/25
Brian Cameron – Spt of Schools	6/30/25
Wesley Dunham – At Large Member	6/30/25
Sarah Edwards – School Council Rep	6/30/25
Amanda Gorham – Home Schooling Rep	6/30/25
Lamicko Magee – School Committee Rep	6/30/25

Belchertown State School Building and Grounds Committee

Lesa Lessard Pearson – Select Board Rep (res. 1/12/24)	6/30/24
Kristin Davis – Citizen Rep	6/30/25
Heidi Dollard – Historical/Cultural Rep	6/30/25
Richard Kowal – Real Estate/Architecture, Grant Writing (app. 3/12/24)	6/30/25
Kirk Stephens – EDIC Seat	6/30/25
Jennifer Turner – Select Board Rep	6/30/25
Susan Tyler – Citizen Rep	6/30/25
Katherine Benson – Associate Member	6/30/25

Board of Health - Burial Agent & Assistant

Robert Sterling – Assistant (res. 3/15/24)	6/30/24
Jennifer Cote – Assistant (appt. 6/12/24)	6/30/25
Theresa Camerlin	6/30/27

Branding Belchertown Committee

Created 12/16/24

ALL SERVE TO FINAL REPORT

Doug Albertson
Chris Martin
Molly Robinson
Nathan Shattuck

Capital Improvement Planning Committee

(Created 10/21/24)

Michael Hofler	6/30/25
Brian Gibbons	6/30/26
Eric Weiss	6/30/26
Eric Bernardin	6/30/27
Rick Kowal	6/30/27
Linda Leduc – Ex-Officio- non voting	Period of Employment
Eric Lebeau – Ex-Officio- non voting	Period of Employment
Civil Defense Director John Ingram	6/30/25

Communications Committee

Reduced to seven member committee 6/3/2024

Ed Comeau	6/30/25
Allegra Giovine – (appt. full member 10/24/24)	6/30/25
Emily Laroche (appt. 12/20/24)	6/30/25
Lew Louraine	6/30/25
Alyssa Lussier (appt. 7/1/24)	6/30/25
Chris Martin	6/30/25
Kate Nadeau (res. 9/24/24)	6/30/25
Mark Spiro	6/30/25
Charlotte Cassidy – Associate Member	6/30/25

Community Preservation Committee

Donald Longley – Recreation Rep.	6/30/25
Alexander Loss – Historical Comm. Rep.	6/30/25
Megan Manitsas – At Large Member	6/30/25
James Quirk – At Large Member	6/30/25
Nancy Delgado Bachman – Housing Authority Rep (res. 9/5/23)	5/2025
James Natle – At Large Member	6/30/26
Michael Hofler – Planning Board Rep.	6/30/27
David Lamb – Conservation Comm. Rep.	6/30/27
Robert Overholtzer – At large Member (passed away 10/11/24)	6/30/27

Conservation Commission

Matthew Dibona	6/30/25
Edward Knight	6/30/25
Douglas Beach	6/30/26
William Duncan – Associate Member (appt. 3/12/24) (appt. full member 7/1/24)	6/30/26
Kate Kelley (res. 5/1/24)	6/30/26
Stephen Garabedian	6/30/27
David Haines	6/30/27
David Lambs	6/30/27

Council on Aging

James Dowling	6/30/25
Anthony Ricchiazzi (appt. 10/24/24)	6/30/25
Nancy Brill (appt. 10/24/24)	6/30/26
Maureen Keizer	6/30/26
Colleen Duroshea	6/30/27
Libby Overly	6/30/27
Diane Plante	6/30/27

2024 Appointed Officials, Continued

Creative Economy Committee

(Created 4/29/24)

Jill Bierly – Belchertown Hist. Comm	6/30/25
Charlotte Cassidy – Community Member (res 12/17/24)	6/30/25
Cheryl Dutton – Community Member	6/30/25
Cyndi Harbeson – Clapp Memorial Library Programming Liaison	6/30/25
Louise Levy – Town Employee	6/30/25
Molly Robinson – Cultural Council	6/30/25
Loren Walker – Community Member	6/30/25

Cultural Council

Jennifer Whitehead	6/30/24
Melanie Donovan	6/30/25
Audrey Anderson (res. 3/31/24)	6/30/26
Heidi Brunell	6/30/26
Trista Hevey	6/30/26
Melissa Saunders (appt. 4/8/24)	6/30/26
Kyle Toelken	6/30/26
Molly Robinson	6/30/27
Peter Stuart (appt. 11/6/24)	6/30/27

Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC)

Beth Maroney – Financial Seat	6/30/25
Jonathan Spiegel – At Large Member	6/30/25
William Terry – Government Seat	6/30/25
Richard Kump – Real Estate Seat	6/30/26
Vacant	6/30/26
Robert Rivard – Industrial Seat	6/30/27
Kirk Stephens – At Large Member	6/30/27

Election Workers

Teresa Adam – Precinct Warden	8/31/25
Christine Babineau – Precinct Clerk	8/31/25
Donna Butler – Precinct Clerk	8/31/25
Melissa Conlin – Precinct Clerk	8/31/25
Bernette Daly – Precinct Warden	8/31/25
Michael Martin – Precinct Clerk	8/31/25
Erica Morrison-Brazitis – Precinct Warden	8/31/25
Clair Partridge – Precinct Coordinator	8/31/25
Carol Walker – Precinct Warden	8/31/25

Energy and Sustainability Committee

(Changed to 9 member committee 12/3/24)

Frank Byrne	6/30/24
Joanne Collins	6/30/25
Jacob Robinson	6/30/25
Chris Bambacus	6/30/26
Kathleen Bernardin (appt. 12/3/24)	6/30/26
Todd Perry	6/30/26
Reid Collins (appt. 12/3/24)	6/30/27
Patricia Krebs	6/30/27
John Piekara	6/30/27
Mike Potishnak – Associate Member	6/30/25

Fair Committee

Loni Austin	6/30/25
William Austin	6/30/25
Cindy Brown	6/30/25
Scott Brown	6/30/25
Carla Chaisson	6/30/25
Wendy Chevalier	6/30/25
Kerri Laurenzo	6/30/25
Shawn Lindholm	6/30/25
Mark Nute	6/30/25

Family Center Committee

Nicole Dunham	6/30/25
Vacant	6/30/25
Elizabeth Crosby	6/30/26
Julie Roberts (appt. 11/27/24)	6/30/26
Jennifer Whitehead	6/30/26
Dorothy Cresswell (appt. 11/27/24)	6/30/27
Natasha Martin	6/30/27

Finance Committee

Katie Longley (appt. 2/5/24)	6/30/25
Angela McCall	6/30/25
Michael McMorrow	6/30/26
Jonathan Ritter	6/30/27
Laurie Shea	6/30/27

Fire Chief

John Ingram

Forest Fire Warden

John Ingram

Hampshire County Local Emergency Planning Committee

John Ingram

Hazard Mitigation Committee

(created 7/17/24)

ALL SERVE TO FINAL REPORT

Doug Albertson – Town Planner

Andrea Crete – Health Dept.

Cheryl Dutton – Community Member

2024 Appointed Officials, Continued

Sarah Fortune – Conservation Agent
John Ingram – Fire Chief/EMD
Jessica Langlois – Senior Center Dir.
Linda Leduc – DPW Director
Kevin Pacunas – Police Chief
Robert Thrasher – Community Member

Historic District By-Law Commission

Denise Smith – Historical Assoc Member	6/30/24
Susan Mahler – Associate Member (appt. full member 7/1/24)	6/30/25
Kristy Reese – At Large Member	6/30/25
Sharon Burdick – At Large Member	6/30/26
Craig Schumacher – Architect Member	6/30/27
Jonathan Spiegel – At Large Member	6/30/27
Thomas Stockton – Resident/Property Owner	6/30/27

Historical Commission

Angela Bergeron-Alexander	6/30/25
Patrick Bierly	6/30/25
Robert Lewis	6/30/26
Alexander Loss	6/30/26
Susan Tyler	6/30/26
Jill Bierly	6/30/27
Gerard Miller (appt. 1/2/24)	6/30/27

Inspector of Animals

Thomas Flebotte (res. 1/19/24)	4/1/24
Janet Lipscomb (appt. 2/14/24)	3/30/25

Inspector of Buildings

Paul Adzima – Inspector	6/30/26
Justin Larivee – Assistant Inspector	6/30/25
Chris Rice – Assistant Inspector	6/30/25

Inspector of Plumbing and Gas Fittings

Charles Lydon, Jr. – Assistant Inspector	6/30/24
David Fredenburgh, Jr. – Inspector	6/30/25
Mike McCain – Assistant Inspector	6/30/25

Inspectors of Wiring

Michael Courtney (appt.1/9/24)	6/30/25
Richard Rosazza	6/30/25
Mitchell Staszko	6/30/25

Jabish Brook Middle School Building Committee

(Dissolved 7/25/24)

ALL SERVE TO FINAL REPORT
Jeff Almeida – Architect, Engineer & Construction Member
Mark Andrews – Architect Member
Ruby Bansal – School Cmte Member
Dave Burnham – Cons. Eng. Member
Brian Cameron – School Superintendent
Shawn Fortin – School Dept. Rep.
Joseph Gagnon – Community Member
Stephen Gibson – Engineer
Heidi Gutekenst – School Cmte Mbr
Nicole Heoux – Teacher
Edward Kopec, Jr. – Parent
Eric Lebeau – School Dept. Bldg & Grounds
Robert Lewis – Community Member
John Ritter – Finance Cmte Member
Thomas Ruscio – JBMS Principal
Jennifer Turner – Select Board
Joshua Wallace – Parent

Lakes Committee

Maureen Desabrais	6/30/25
John Soja	6/30/25
Leeanne Connolly (res 6/18/24)	6/30/26
Diane Plante	6/30/26
Kathi Smith	6/30/27

Lamson Brook Farm Board of Directors

David Haines – Conservation Comm. Rep.	1/31/26
Tammy Ryan – Agricultural Comm. Rep.	1/31/26
Jonathan Spiegel – EDIC Rep.	1/31/26

McPherson Garden Committee

John Berryhill	6/30/24
Patricia Barry	6/30/25
Sharon Marean	6/30/25
Louise Butler	6/30/26
Eileen Klockars	6/30/27
Michael Vinsh. (appt. 7/19/24)	6/30/27

Memorial Committee

George Archible	6/30/25
Patrick Loftus	6/30/25
Charly Oliva	6/30/26
William Bowen	6/30/27
Edward Knight	6/30/27

2024 Appointed Officials, Continued

Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee

Andrea Crete – Belchertown Board of Health Seat. (res. 2/28/24)	6/30/24
Kim Dewey – BOAT Representative	6/30/25
Abaigael Duda – Representative Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance Seat (res. 10/4/24)	6/30/25
Gail Gramarossa – At-Large Community Member Seat	6/30/25
Kristin Hoag – School Department Seat	6/30/25
Emily Kirby – (appt. 7/19/24) Representative Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance Seat	6/30/25
Neil Lozier – Police Department/DART Seat	6/30/25
Jill Rossi – Accounting Seat	6/30/25

Parks, Beach & Recreation Committee

William Vosburgh	6/30/24
Donald Longley	6/30/25
Bill Longridge	6/30/25
Tilo Schiffer	6/30/26
Joshua Wallace	6/30/27
Vacant – Associate Member	6/30/26

Personnel Board

Disbanded 6/30/24

Jessie Aquino	6/30/24
Nicole Dunham	6/30/24
Katharine Higgins Shea	6/30/24
Sarah Porter	6/30/24
Colleen Toothill-Berte	6/30/25

Town Planner

Douglas Albertson

Planning Board – Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits

Leonard Bilodeau	6/30/24
Mark Plante (appt. 7/1/24)	6/30/25

Planning Board Associate Member

Mark Plante	6/30/24

Police Chief

Kevin Pacunas

Police Department Lieutenants

Bruce Jenks	6/30/25

Police Department – Sergeants (Full-time)

Dennis Fitzgerald	6/30/25
Jared LaValle	6/30/25
Neil Lozier	6/30/25
Robert Mann	6/30/25
Christopher Mayo	6/30/25

Police Department – Patrol Officers

(Full-time)

Valerie Austin	6/30/25
Adam Brougham	6/30/25
Draine Colon-Rivera	6/30/25
Vincent Daponte	6/30/25
Garrett Fortin	6/30/25
Andrew Hulse	6/30/25
Michael Jablonski	6/30/25
Nicholas Jimenez	6/30/25
Jason Krol	6/30/25
Austin Marrone	6/30/25
Matthew Menard	6/30/25
Jason Robinson	6/30/25
Michael Roney	6/30/25
Hanna Sweet	6/30/25
Daniel Welch	6/30/25
Cameron Woodward	6/30/25

Procurement Officer

Steven Williams

Jill Rossi, Asst. Procurement Officer

Public Works Director

Linda Leduc

PVPC Joint Transportation Committee

Douglas Albertson – Alternate Member	6/30/25
Linda Leduc – Public Works Rep	6/30/25
Steven Williams – Representative	6/30/25

PVPC (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission) Representatives

Elizabeth Pols	6/30/24
Douglas Albertson	6/30/25

PVTA Advisory Board

Brian O'Leary (passed away 9/24/24)	6/30/25

Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corp.

Vacant

2024 Appointed Officials, Continued

Quabbin Valley Health District

Andrea Crete – Dir. of Public Health	6/30/25

Physician Advisor to Board of Health

Scott Siege, MD	6/30/25

Registrars

Nancy Wright (ret. 3/31/24)	3/31/24
Mary Catherine Knight Chair	3/31/25
Judith Izatt	3/31/26
Margaret Louraine (appt. 6/3/24)	3/31/27
Theresa Camerlin	5/17/27

Assistant Registrar of Voters

Nora Murphy – BHS Rep (appt. 2/20/24)	6/30/24

Sealer of Weights and Measures

Paul Adzima	6/30/25

Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer

ALL SERVER TO FINAL REPORT

Steven Williams
Joanne Misiaszek

Superintendent of Insect Pest Control

Linda Leduc	6/30/25

Tax Title Property Committee

ALL SERVE TO FINAL REPORT

Douglas Albertson – Town Planner
Steven Williams – Town Manager
John Whelihan – Dir. of Assessments
Sarah Fortune – Conservation Administrator

Trail Stewardship Council

Douglas Albertson – Town Alternate	6/30/25
Sarah Fortune	6/30/25
Jennifer Kalmansson – Landowner Rep (appt. 7/1/24)	6/30/25

Treasurer/Collector

Sarah Mann	6/30/25

Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Kayleigh Goodrow	6/30/25

Deputy Collector

Arthur Jones	12/31/24

Town Accountant

Jill Rossi	6/30/25

Assistant Town Accountant

Kimberly O'Grady	6/30/25

Town Manager

Steven Williams

Assistant Town Clerk

Robert Sterling (res. 3/15/24)	6/30/24
Jennifer Cote (appt. 5/17/24)	6/30/25

Town Counsel

KP LAW

Trench Permitting Authority

Paul Adzima
Steven Williams, Alternate

Veterans' Graves Officer

Vincent Viglione	3/31/27
Kathleen Wood, Assistant	3/31/27

Veterans' Services Agent

Charly Oliva	4/30/27

Veterans' Services Advisory Board

Charly Oliva	Period of Employment
Larry Raine – At Large Member	6/30/24
George Archible	6/30/25
Victor Robidoux	6/30/25
Kenneth Haughey	6/30/25
William McClure – At Large Member	6/30/26
Donald Longley – At Large Member	6/30/26
Keith Poulin – Associate Member	6/30/25

Willard Stebbins Trust Fund

Edward Boscher
Vacant
Vacant

Zoning Board of Appeals

Vacant	6/30/24
Brian Gibbons	6/30/25
Jennifer Sharrow	6/30/26
Wayne Versace – Associate Member (appt. full member 7/1/24)	6/30/27
Dino Brunetti – Associate Member	6/30/25
Russell Sabadosa – Associate Member	6/30/25
Darlene Willey Sliwa – Associate Member (appt. 7/1/24)	6/30/25

Zoning Enforcement Officer

Paul Adzima	6/30/25

SELECT BOARD REPORT

Belchertown began the fiscal year on July 1, 2024 with a complete legal transition to our new Town Manager Steve Williams. The new authority given to the Town manager now includes:

Under the Special Legislation, the Town Manager is now authorized to serve as Chief Administrative Officer with the authority to perform the day-to-day operations of the Town. The Special Legislation specifically makes the Town Manager responsible for:

» Implementing Town policies established by the Select Board;

» Personnel management duties, including appointing and removing members of multiple member bodies, department heads, officers, subordinates and employees, excluding the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Library Director and School Department employees. Some appointments are subject to the prior consultation with a multiple-member body or ratification by the Select Board;

» Administering personnel policies and practice, rules and regulations, Personnel Bylaws and collective bargaining agreements;

» Fixing the compensation of all appointed officers and employees within the limits established by the Town meeting;

» Negotiating all collective bargaining agreements and other contracts within the jurisdiction of the office of Town Manager, subject to the ratification and execution by the Select Board;

» Signing warrants for payment, subject to the signature of the Town Accountant;

» Preparing the proposed operating and capital budgets and administering same;

» Managing, supervising and being responsible for the efficient administration of all Town functions under the Town Manager's control;

» Coordinating the activities of the various Town agencies;

» Making investigation into the conduct of an officer or the performance of any officer or employee, department, board, commission or other Town agency;

» Keeping the Select Board informed as to the needs of the Town;

» Management of use of all Town facilities and property (except School Department facilities and property);

Under G.L. c. 71, the School Committee is responsible for the oversight of the School Department, performing a similar executive role for the School Department as the Select Board performs for most other Town Departments. Appointments of School Department employees are dictated by different provisions of the General Laws but are not within the purview of the Town Manager.

» Serving as the Chief Procurement Officer; and

» Perform duties established by bylaw or delegation from the Select Board.

This evolution will allow the Belchertown Select Board to focus on identifying and adopting Massachusetts municipal best practices for many years to come.

Belchertown voters have many significant questions ahead. With the failed vote for a new middle school building behind us in 2024, the logical question is what's next? The options include doing nothing, a new redesign, building consolidation, or regionalization. The Select Board remains committed to work in conjunction with the School Committee and Superintendent in identifying which path or combination of paths makes the most sense for the next 50 years.

The ARPA funding provided by the Federal and State Governments have been depleted. The Select Board has done a reasonable job at minimizing the operating budget impact by using most of the funds for one time or project based expenditures.

Key Select Board initiatives over the years are starting to take root including the Belchertown Capital Improvement Committee to address the long neglected issues of Building upkeep, improving communication with Town residents through the Town web site (which won the Mass Municipal Association award for best web site), strengthening our Public meeting transparency through ease of access of and streaming, and the addition of a part time grant coordinator/writer to help Belchertown better access state and federal funding for certain programs.

Later this spring of 2025, the Division of Local Services (DLS) will have another report helping Belchertown address how to efficiently organize and progress as we continue to grow.

For those of you wishing to better understand the current situation of Belchertown, please visit belchertown.org and review the Town manager Blog. In it you will find Navigating the Fiscal year 2026 Budget Challenges with Confidence. It outlines a number of current reality data points and will serve everyone well to strengthen our collective knowledge.

Finally, Belchertown is making significant progress on many longstanding issues with the outstanding help of the many dedicated employees that serve Belchertown professionally.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Boscher
Select Board, Chair

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

2024 was another productive and exciting year in the administration of the Town. It was also another year defined by transition. After several years of planning and hard work, the conversion from a Town Administrator to a Town Manager was completed on March 9th when the governor signed the legislation making it official.

We also said goodbye and thank you to two members of the Select Board who decided to not seek another term in 2024. Margaret "Peg" Louraine and Ronald Aponte will both be missed for their dedication and expertise. The long standing BCTV Station Manager, Lew Louraine is stepping away from 28-years of service; Lew was one of the founding members of BCTV and served on many committees to bring quality cable television to Belchertown.

In May, we welcomed two new members to the Select Board: Nicole Miner and Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz. In December we welcomed three new team members, all funded with Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant money. These include the Belchertown Community Television General Manager: Esther Glovacki, Grant Coordinator: Allison Bonvie, and Communications Manager: Kate Nadeau.

Committee activity during the year remained high. The Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee held its first meeting and has continued to meet establishing spending priorities for the funds the Town receives through the Opioid Settlement. The Select Board also formed a Capital Improvement Planning Committee to oversee the Town's Capital Plan, a Creative Economy Committee to promote the revitalization of the proposed Cultural District, a Hazard Mitigation Committee to oversee the Master Plan updates, and the Branding Belchertown Committee to oversee the creation of a new Town Logo and the updating of the Town Seal.

We worked collaboratively with many different Committees and Departments to make 2024 a productive year with many notable accomplishments including but not limited to the completion of:

» Updated the Town Website (Winner of the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Website Award recognizing excellence in customer service, functionality, convenience, and government transparency).

» Created the Municipal Aggregation process securing a 39-month fixed rate for the generation of electricity for Belchertown's residents.

» The relocation of the Town Servers out of the former Tadgell School Building.

» The demolition of the building at 51 State Street.

» The parking lot at the State Street Pickle ball courts.

» The purchase of the Gingras Property of State Street.

» The regionalization of the Emergency Dispatch Services with Wilbraham and Hampden.

» The successful negotiation of labor contracts with the Police Officers Coalition, Firefighters Local, and Public Works employees.

» Signed a 10-year contract extension with Charter/Spectrum for Belchertown's cable services.

We also started many other projects including the:

» Renovations to the second floor of the Fire Station to expand available living quarters.

» Phase two of the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail.

» Development of a Quarterly Newsletter.

» Human Services Study to review operations of the Recreation Department, Senior Services, and Veteran's Agent.

» An organizational review of the financial offices.

This was also the second year of a new financial strategy for the Town. In December, the Select Board and Finance Committee met to determine the level of Free Cash utilization for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget process, 60% of available Free Cash will be allocated to the operating budget, down from the previous year when 80% was used. The Remainder will be split between the reserve fund, OPEB, Stabilization Fund, and Capital expenditures. This is a continuation of the efforts to comply with the State Division of Local Services' 2021 recommendation to phase out the use of one-time revenue in the annual operating budget.

As I reflect on all the activities that made this past year great, I want to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the Belchertown residents who have volunteered their time and offered their wisdom to the organizations and events that make this town shine

For every success, there were various challenges, as is the case every year. In spite of many challenges, Departments continued to provide essential services to every corner of town, these same departments also showed growth in their respective areas of responsibility.

We have benefited greatly from the talent and institutional knowledge of our former and current employees, and I look forward to their continued contributions through this next chapter of our history. I am grateful for their energy and support for Belchertown, their efforts are seen and appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steven J. Williams
Town Manager

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee is an advisory committee that collaborates with the Town Manager, Town Accountant and Select Board members throughout the budget process cycle to gather information and data to make sound financial recommendations on the fiscally related Warrants at Annual and/or Special Town Meeting. In addition, the current year revenue and expenditures are reviewed by the committee an ongoing basis throughout the year. The Finance Committee strives to maintain transparency in the budget process, be collaborative, open-minded, and consider first and foremost what is best overall for the town and its schools in its fiscal related recommendations as well as what is sustainable operationally.

	Budget FY24	Budget FY25
Income		
Local Receipts	$3,460,978	$3,925,650
Property Tax Levy	$33,370,145	$34,574,232
State Funding	$17,646,414	$17,889,757
Enterprise & Other Sources	$5,891,615	$5,275,221
Expense		
State Assessments/Offsets	$2,557,371	$2,642,098
Schools	$34,032,927	$34,774,985
Town	$12,929,220	$13,182,658
Fixed Costs	$8,008,377	$7,754,722
Enterprise Funds	$2,841,257	$2,343,524

Laurie Shea, Chair
John Ritter, Vice-Chair
Angela McCall, Clerk
Michael McMorrow, Member
Katie Longley, Member

ADA COMMITTEE

The American with Disabilities Committee Members for the year 2024 were Paul Adzima, ADA Liaison; Steven Williams, Town Administrator, Linda Leduc, Director of Public Works; Eric LeBeau, Director of Buildings and Grounds and Max Bock, Maintenance Department.

The Committee meets throughout the year as necessary.

The ADA Committee responds to any complaint on ADA related issues and monitors the progress of the resolution of those issues.

The ADA Committee invites the public's opinion and concerns to help promote a safe environment for those who are disabled.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The Belchertown Agricultural Commission supports Belchertown Farmers as a Right to Farm Community.

We continue to support the annual Farmers Market on the Common and educational opportunities for all sizes of local agricultural enterprises.

We are very proud of the Farm Guide to Buy Local "The Bounty of Belchertown" that was produced in cooperation with the Belchertown Creative Economy. Member Tammy Ryan was a vital part of this partnership. The guide can be found on the Commission's web-page on the town website.

Tammy Ryan continues as our representative to the Lampson Brook Farm project to ensure the agricultural voice is heard as the project moves forward.

The commission has plans for continued support and education for the upcoming year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Bernardin, Chairman

ANIMAL CONTROL

For calendar year 2024 Belchertown Animal Control received a $2,200 grant from Massachusetts Animal Coalition for spay and neuter of low-income pets in Belchertown. We have applied for another grant.

We also hosted rabies and microchip clinics at our shelter with the help of Dr. Russo from Westbrook Vet Hospital with funding from B.A.R.C. Inc. and helped 78 pets get updated rabies vaccines and 42 pets received microchips to help ensure that they got home if ever lost.

We have over 3,500 dogs in our town and do our best to ensure that they are all licensed and up to date on rabies vaccines.

We would like to thank both the Town Clerk's Office and the Town Accountant's Office for their participation in our kitten socialization program. This exposure continues to lead to super friendly kittens, faster adoptions and more traffic into the Town Clerk's Office! We are also appreciative of the folks at Finnerty House for taking in 2 owner surrendered adult cats whose current jobs are as mousers for the building.

In 2024 we received 2,756 calls. Some were for assistance, directing folks to appropriate services, answering questions and others were loose/injured animal related. We are staffed 7 days a week from 8am until 10pm.

The Belchertown Animal Control Department would like to acknowledge the support and cooperation we receive from both the other town departments and the public during the course of our duties.

Respectfully,
Anna Fenton

Animal Control, Continued

As of January 1, 2024

Animals at Belchertown Animal Control	**Cats: 5**	**Dogs: 1**
Animals in Foster	**Cats: 3**	**Dogs: 1**

TOTAL ANIMALS IN: 164

Animals Brought In Via Stray and Owner Surrender	Cats:	27	Dogs:	51
Animals Brought In Via Injury	Owls:	1	Rabbit:	2
	Hawk:	1	Raccoons:	5
	Opossum:	1	Turtles:	2
	Porcupine:	1		
Animals Dead on Arrival	Cats:	3	Bat:	1
Animals Transferred In	Cats:	8	Dogs:	2
animals Returned from Adoption	Cats:	3	Dogs:	0

TOTAL ANIMALS OUT: 113

Animals Adopted	Cats:	32	Dogs:	10
	Gecko:	1		
Animals Dead on Arrival	Cats:	3	Bat:	1
Animals Died on Shelter	Turtle:	1	Raccoon:	1
Animals Euthanized	Cats:	2	Dogs:	1
	Rabbits:	2	Raccoon:	1
	Hawk:	1	Opossum:	1
Animals Going into Foster	Cats:	23	Dogs:	4
Animals Returned to Owners	Cats:	7	Dogs:	37
	Goat:	1		
Animals Transferred to Other Shelters	Cats:	0	Dogs:	4
	Owl:	1	Porcupines:	1
	Hawk:	1	Raccoon:	3
	Owl: 1			

Animals at Belchertown Animal Control at the end of 2024: Cats: 2 Dogs: 1
Animals in Foster at the end of 2024: Cats: 3 Dogs: 0

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors is pleased to provide its 2024 Annual Report to the Select Board.

At the municipal election in May 2024, Craig Tommila was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Assessors. Raymond Goff and Loring "Mike" Caney remain members of the Board. After serving four terms as an Assessor, Donald Minney did not seek re-election. The Board would like to thank Mr. Minney for his dedicated service to the town and assessing department.

Although the costs associated with operating municipal government continue to rise, the Assessor's Office continues to provide town residents with accurate valuation and financial data.

Important figures in establishing Belchertown's fiscal year 2024 municipal budget included:

FY24 Total Taxable Value	**2,181,674,678**
Town Meeting Appropriations	**$61,151,260**
Estimated Receipts/State Aid	**$27,728,004**
Tax Levy	**$33,423,256**
Levy Limit and Debt Exclusions	**$33,466,199**
FY24 New Growth	**$396,053**
FY24 Tax Rate	**$15.32**

The Board acted upon timely filed tax abatement applications along with exemption applications for disabled veterans, elderly, widowed and legally blind property owners.

The number of tax exemptions are as follows:

Senior/Widowed	**21**
Disabled Veterans/surviving spouses (of disabled veterans)	**195**
Blind (certified by MA Commission for the Blind)	**1**

The Board also reviewed and acted upon "chapter" applications for land devoted to agricultural/horticultural, recreational or forestry uses. The Board continues to perform field reviews as needed.

The Assessors conducted a valuation update of all real and personal property in fiscal year 2024. Due to continued improvements of market conditions the town's property values increased. The Board is confident that all classes of property are valued according to the Massachusetts Commissioner of Revenue's certification standards.

In accordance with Department of Revenue (DOR) guidelines, the assessing staff conducted interior and exterior inspections of the town's commercial/industrial properties.

The office staff participated in diversity, equity and sensitivity training workshops.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond Goff, Chair
Loring Caney
Craig Tommila
Board of Assessors

BELCHERTOWN AGE & DEMENTIA FRIENDLY IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

The Belchertown Age and Dementia Friendly Implementation Group established in 2021 prioritizes and implements actions listed in the "Age & Dementia Friendly Belchertown Community Assessment and Action Plan". The Belchertown Council on Aging leads this group, coordinates meetings, and collaborates with Department Heads, local businesses, and private citizens who comprise the group. The Belchertown Age & Dementia Friendly Implementation Group meets four times per year to prioritize projects, monitor progress, and track outcomes.

The Belchertown Age & Dementia Friendly Community Assessment and Action Plan is a living document. It entails the steps required to achieve an Age & Dementia Friendly Community designation. Upon AARP's approval, this action plan takes effect and the group will begin implementing its steps.

The goal of this group is to design and implement policies, procedures, and services that enhance the quality of life; and enable those who live, work, and play in our community, to do so safely and independently regardless of age, income, or ability.

A bench installation project was completed in December 2024 with financial support from a Community Action Grant through AARP. Carriage Drive is now home to 6 benches along the walking path. By increasing means to rest, older adults and those who rely on a care partner may be more likely to walk longer distances than they would be able to without a place to rest. Exercise, nature and fresh air are all proven ways to improve mood and health. Being able to prolong that exposure by offering chances to rest may improve one's wellbeing.

Below are those joining the Belchertown Age & Dementia Friendly Implementation Group with a 3-year term commitment thus far:

Jessica Langlois,
Executive Director-Belchertown Senior Center
Linda Leduc, Director-Belchertown DPW
Doug Albertson, Town Planner, Town of Belchertown
Kirsten Krieger, Public Health Nurse, Quabbin Health District
Gretchen O'Neil, Community Member

BELCHERTOWN COMMUNITY TELEVISION

The purpose of Belchertown Community Television is to operate Community Channels 191, 192, and 193 on the public access television system in Belchertown. BCTV provides training and technical assistance in the use of video production equipment, access to video resources, and time on the access channels. Facilities are available for the production and presentation of live or taped programming of interest to the Belchertown community. BCTV's role is to provide resources, training, and assistance while remaining content-neutral regarding their use.

We continue to broadcast a wide range of government, community, and educational programs of interest to Belchertown. We also continue to need volunteers. What we can produce is limited to the time these volunteers are available; more volunteers equal more local programming.

Channel 193 - BCTV Weather Station

The BCTV weather information program is broadcast on Charter channel 193 and displays the current weather conditions at the BCTV station. This service operates 24 hours a day.

Government Access Programs – BCTV broadcasts the following Town Boards, Committees, and/or Commissions:

Select Board
Agriculture Commission
Communications Comm.
Planning Board
Board of Health
Conservation Commission
Annual Town Meeting
BEDIC
School Committee
Council on Aging
Special Town Meeting
Zoning Board of Appeals
Energy and Sustainability Committee

Educational Access Programs – Educational programs being broadcast on BCTV include:

In a normal school year, we would have covered the following events:
Most BHS Band Concerts
BHS Annual Graduation Ceremony
Most BHS Drama Presentations
Swift River and Chestnut Hill school productions
Most CHCS Band Concerts

Community Access Programs – BCTV continues to cover as many community events as possible.

A partial list includes:
The Summer Community Band Concerts
Winter Light Night
The Annual Belchertown Fair
Veteran Day Ceremonies
The Annual Fair Parade
Memorial Day Ceremonies
Some Holiday events
Clapp Memorial Library Events
4H Trunk 'r Treat
Lions Club Rag Shag Parade

Weekly Church Services on BCTV include:

St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
Hope United Methodist Church
Christ Community Church

BCTV Streaming Service and Archive Service

Use https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/belchertown?page=HOME to access streaming Channels 191 and 192.

Archived shows can be viewed by going to the Town Web page (Belchertown.org) and clicking on Government in the Header, then click on BCTV, and then Watch Previous Meetings.

Accomplishment and Goals for 2024

Goals

BCTV's goal each year is to maintain and upgrade our existing facility and to get new volunteers trained and independently operating. It is our hope to cover as many community events as we can and then broadcast them as professionally as we can. Community events presented professionally make us an asset in Belchertown. BCTV is always in need of volunteers. There are meetings we simply cannot cover, repair work that waits for months, and skills we do not possess that we could use.

Accomplishments

BCTV management attended a day long workshop on ADA compliance. There are new ADA rules that will necessitate some upgrades to our productions especially closed captioning.

Frank Lomanno and Kevin Hannon were the driving force for two upgrades this year. They were able to wire our station computers so that they connect directly to our Castus Quickroll, the machine that broadcasts our productions. This means a better picture and audio for all our social media broadcasts such as the town GoToMeeting app used for all town meetings.

They also were able to change how BCTV transmits shows from remote locations. Initially the Castus Quickroll system sent our broadcasts to a cloud service and then back to us. Mr. Lomanno and Mr. Hannon discovered that the Castus equipment could also send our shows directly to the Castus using the

Town Intranet. Key Code Media was hired to reprogram our equipment for the Town Intranet. This improved security on our system as we were not going through an open cloud service and saved BCTV money as were no longer renting cloud services from Castus.

Personnel Changes

Last summer, I announced to the Select Board that I was retiring as the BCTV Station Manager effective June 30, 2025. I had previously negotiated a 10-year contract with Charter Communications that could fund a full time BCTV General Manager. This meant the town could hire a full time General Manager and a search was conducted in November 2024. There was a pool of 20 candidates. The search was successful, and a candidate was hired. On December 16, 2024, Esther Glovacki started her job as BCTV General Manager.

BCTV does have a small but extremely dedicated staff. Below is the complete list of the folks who make up BCTV and many but not all the shows they tape, edit, burn to DVDs, upload to Sprout for the citizens of Belchertown, along with some of their other contributions to BCTV:

» Pat Barry – BEDIC, Board of Health, upload shows to Sprout

» Dan Beaudette – ZBA, Selectmen, Council on Aging, Agricultural Commission Mary Ann Brennen – Planning Board, Annual Town Meeting, Special Town Meeting, and other events

» Charlotte Cassidy – BCTV Bulletin Board slides, Facebook Weekly Schedule

» Louise Christ – BCTV Scheduler, St. Francis Roman Catholic Church, Concerts on the Common

» Shawn Lindholm – All School Activities at BHS, JBMS, and Crocker Farm

» Frank Lommano – BCTV IT Manager, Conservation Commission

» Peg Louraine – BCTV Program Manager and the Voice of BCTV

Respectfully Submitted,
Lewis Louraine
Station Manager

BELCHERTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

The Belchertown Economic Development Industrial Corporation (BEDIC) was formed by Town Meeting vote in 1982. The Select Board appoints 7 members with staggered, three-year terms. Formed under Mass. General Laws Chapter 121C, BEDIC 's mission is to develop and implement a Town Meeting approved economic development plan on the former Belchertown State School property creating real estate investment and jobs. Over the years the BEDIC has sold and leased parcels which hold more than 14 business buildings providing jobs and revenue for the Town. The BEDIC has also transferred to the Town over 80 acres for use as recreation areas and conservation. Mass Development continues as master developer with participation by BEDIC, the Select Board and the Planning Board. From Fiscal Year 2018 through FY 25 the BEDIC was awarded $3.8 M in grants for site improvement, roads and site clearing. We have also brought to the Town another $5 million in funding from the Commonwealth to clear buildings, develop infrastructure and promote development. To date, through MassDevelopment, BEDIC has spent almost $9.5 million in State funds for remediation and demolition of twenty structures including: the cottages, the large School Building, Dorm G, the infirmary, the hospital, cafeteria, laundry and storage buildings, totaling around 300,000 sq ft.

Calendar year 2024 the completion of the Industrial Drive. Several small buildings were demolished, a new road base was installed with infrastructure and the Industrial roundabout was completed. This opens 15 acres of light industrial land to the East of Carriage Dr. Mass Development continues to market the Industrial sites since the new Industrial Drive was accepted at Town Meeting. BEDIC and MassDevelopment are now actively marketing an additional 7.5 acres for commercial and mixed-use purposes.

The BEDIC is working with MassDevelopment to further plans of BRISA Development LLC for a multi-phased development of the West side of the property to conform with the approved Master Plan and established design standards. BRISA Development presented and had approved the Phase 1a Design Plans by the Planning Board. The mix of Town Homes and Workforce housing would occupy the street frontage along Carriage Drive past the roundabout and to the West to link up to walking trails at the rear of the parcel. This project is being designed to Net-Zero standards. BRISA Development's Phase 1b plan is to re-purpose the Administration Building into a Museum space, with additional space at the second building facing Berkshire Av., adjacent to Town owned buildings. They are now in the funding stage.

A contract for removing the Power Plant has been signed. The various pieces have come together, including a Brownfield Grant and a Site Readiness Grant. The Power Plant will be removed In the Spring and Summer of 2025. Mass Development has been instrumental in raising the visibility of this site on the State's to do list. Parcel D off Rt. 21 is under contract for site testing and assessment to be completed in Spring of 2025 with a plan for development to follow.

Directors:
William Terry, Chairman
Kirk Stephens, Vice Chairman
Jonathan Spiegel, At Large Seat
Bob Rivard, Industrial Seat
Beth Maroney, Financial Seat
Richard Kump, Real Estate

BELCHERTOWN FAMILY CENTER

The Belchertown Family Center Committee began the 2024 calendar year with three vacancies and without a dedicated physical space, which significantly limited the Center's ability to operate in any capacity. The former Family Center building at 51 State Street was demolished on February 5, 2024.

The mission of the Belchertown Family Center is to provide a safe, nurturing, inclusive learning environment for children and their caregivers. In prior years, the Family Center Committee was able to fulfill this mission through a partnership with CES to provide playgroups, the opening of the Community Closet, a donation-based resource for families which provided free toys, gear and supplies, a car seat safety event offered in partnership with the Belchertown Police Department, and other play and learning opportunities through partnerships with members of our community and members of the BFC Committee. In 2024, the Committee could no longer provide space for play groups, and the relationship with CES dissolved; the challenges related to finding volunteers to coordinate or run family programming, and the logistics of finding adequate space and resources for programming proved difficult to overcome.

The Belchertown Family Center Committee held a winter gear swap in January and collaborated with the Belchertown Police Department on a car seat safety event in April. In December, the Committee was able to organize a very successful winter gear swap, which offered crafts and activities for kids, free family photographs, and car seat safety checks - this event served over 70 families in two days.

The Belchertown Family Center Committee filled two vacant seats in December of 2024, leaving one remaining vacancy.

For more information, please reach out to BFC Committee representative Natasha Martin at nlfarrington@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page.

BELCHERTOWN OVERCOMING ADVERSITY TOGETHER (BOAT)

BOAT recognizes that substance use disorder and mental health conditions are public health issues. We support and implement a proactive approach through prevention education, harm reduction strategies, reducing stigma, and ease of access to treatment.

BOAT has been hard at work this year building relationships within the community and county with partner organizations, resulting in collaborations with over 75 non-profit organizations. Partnerships include, but are not limited to: Hampshire Hope, Quaboag Substance Use Alliance, Cleanslate, Gandara, Team Sharing, Western MA Young People in Recovery, Achieve Greatness, Amherst Survival Center, Behavioral Health Network, Palmer and Ware Domestic Violence Task Force, Pioneer Valley Suicide Prevention Coalition, Pioneer Valley Tobacco Control, WeCare365, Rick's Place, AA, Alanon, Learn to Cope, Eastern Hampshire District Court, BPD, DART. BOAT has successfully maintained and expanded resources to help serve residents affected by substance use disorders, helped and supported loved ones, promoted prevention, and educated the community on addiction, harm reduction, and prevention.

BOAT's objective is to serve as a catalyst for awareness, prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery and has met 12 times over the last year. During meeting times, we discuss and plan for upcoming events, policy change, current issues around substance prevention, treatment and recovery and mental health and wellness by maintaining focus on the mission statement and DFC 12-month action plan. Further, BOAT's Umbrella of Wellness Subcommittee met 28 times over the last year, and is planning the 4rd Annual Umbrella of Wellness Fair for May 4, 2024. The Drug-Free Communities Program Director is involved in 8 committees in Hampshire County, including Belchertown's Opioid Settlement Fund Committee.

Belchertown Police Department's DART team is an integral part of BOAT in assisting with fatal and non-fatal overdoses, crisis and non-crisis situations, and supporting families and individuals to obtain the necessary resources for recovery, mental health and wellness, and grief services. In 2024, Belchertown Police Department reported 54 substance-related police encounters (this is a decrease from 100 in 2023), including the following: Operation Under the Influence encounters, 11 for alcohol; 5 encounters with juveniles under the age of 18; 32 transports to Wing Hospital– 20 were alcohol related, 6 were Suicidal Ideation by taking substances (i.e. alcohol, Klonopin and hydroxyzine) - 2 were juveniles, 3 transport was heroin/opioid related- resulting in non-fatal overdose. Other substances involved in transports included: Crack, Advil, Motrin, Methodone, Xanex, Lorazean, Rosuvastatin. 2 transports to the ER related to alcohol, requested further long term treatment in a substance rehabilitation facility. Naloxone was utilized by the Fire Department 1 time and once by a community member (a son). It is important for Belchertown to continue distributing Naloxone, as it is utilized in the community at large. The total number of youth under 21 involved in substance related incidents were 3 (5% of all calls, which is down from 18% in 2023). Further, one person was taken into custody under Section 35. Section 35 is a Massachusetts law that allows a qualified person to request a court order requiring someone to be civilly committed and treated involuntarily for an alcohol or substance use disorder; 6 people received a Section 12. Section 12 is a transportation order to a hospital. Once the patient arrives at the hospital he/she must be evaluated by a physician (psychiatrist) to determine if he/she needs to be involuntarily committed for no more than 72 hours. Only the physician can make the commitment determination. Due to the rise in overdose deaths in our community and society, the Belchertown Police Department and Dart have strategically placed Naloxboxes at the following locations: Town Hall (outside), Library (downstairs bathroom), Everett Acres/Belchertown Housing Authority (office building, both bathrooms), Subway (outside bathroom), Pine Valley Plantation (2 locations).

In Fall 2023, Belchertown Police Department and The Belchertown Public Schools (with support from BOAT voting members, School and Police DFC Sector Representatives) collaborated in developing a Handle with Care (HWC) program. HWC is a school-community response to help ensure that children exposed to trauma in their home, school, or community receive appropriate support to help them achieve emotionally and academically. It starts when a first responder – law enforcement, fire fighter, emergency medical responder, etc. – sends a notice to a designated school official to tell them that a child has been exposed to a traumatic incident. A Handle with Care notification alerts the designated HWC school official, that a child may have been exposed to a traumatic incident such as domestic violence, child abuse, death in the family, witness to a crime, loss of home due to a house fire, etc. No specific details are shared, just one simple request: to focus on the child and handle them with care. Confidentiality is maintained at all levels. The designated HWC then contacts the building Principals and Principals contact School Staff who have direct contact with the student. School staff members, while observing the student throughout the day, will aim to be especially sensitive to student needs. Provisions for a quiet place to rest, assistance with meeting basic needs, homework/ test forgiveness or delay, a visit to the school nurse or counselor, or referral to an outside agency will be provided as needed.

During the 2024 school calendar year, HWC was successfully implemented 84 times and included the following total interventions: HS - 24, JBMS - 19, CHCS - 17, SRES - 8, CSS - 5 and Other -11. BOAT continues to collaborate with the BPS on a plethora of initiatives.

BOAT orchestrated Red Ribbon Week in all schools, which highlights the importance of living a drug-free life. It presents an opportunity for parents, educators, and communities to reinforce the drug-free messages they share with their children throughout the year. This year's theme was "Life is a Movie. Live Drug Free." BOAT collaborated with building Principals, distributing age-appropriate morning announcements for each school. Additionally, Student Council, Helping Hands, and BOAT members placed over 1,000 ribbons around town at all 5 schools to show solidarity and support for drug-free schools and communities. The Helping Hands student group painted kindness messages on large landscape rocks at Jabish Brook Middle School. JBMS and the HS celebrated with Spirit Week, i.e. Monday- Wear your shirt backwards, Turn Your Back on Drugs and Wednesday was deemed "wear red day" where over 2000 students participated and received bracelets with the BOAT logo and RRW theme, contributed form the DFC grant. Further, BOAT collaborated with the Recreation Department at the closing of RRW featuring a Drive-In Movie – Inside Out 2. Free popcorn was distributed to 95 attendees with the bag featuring a positive Social Norm from SAMSHA. A total of 48 cars were registered and attended the event.

BOAT orchestrated the 3rd Annual Umbrella of Wellness Fair in which 47 non-profit organizations hosted tables, with 11 mini breakout sessions, 2 main state speakers, over 60 free giveaways and over 450 people in attendance. Laura Stack, Founder and CEO of Johnny's Ambassador's and Zara Phillips, singer, songwriter, actor, author, and activist, specifically for adoptees, were our keynote speakers. Several youth activities were available, i.e. meet and greet with Boomer, Kaptain Kraw balloon making, and face painting. The purpose of this fair is to promote health and wellness to our community through education, engagement and empowerment.

BOAT continues to work with the schools in providing resources for our youth. BOAT partnered with the HS in hosting Kathi Sullivan from Taylor's Message to present Social Host Law and risks of underage drinking to over 300 parents and students as a requirement to attend Junior Prom.

BOAT, Continued

BOAT hosted a table at 2 Parent/Student Athletics Night for Spring/Fall 2024 sports. Additionally, in the Fall 2024, Stephen Hill presented to grades 6-12 and held a Lunch and Learn with students from Helping Hands and the Student Council. Stephen is founder of Speak Sobriety, is a young person in recovery, best-selling author, recovery coach and a defense attorney. He is a renowned national speaker on substance use prevention and mental health awareness.

BOAT implements a 7-strategies approach for community change developed by Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, the DFC training platform. The 7 strategies approach Identifies a comprehensive selection of evidence-based substance abuse prevention strategies/interventions is vital to implementing effective substance abuse prevention efforts in our community leading to positive change. Focusing on the Providing Information strategy, BOAT hosted tables at 38 events, where information was made available to the public regarding vaping, cannabis, alcohol, and opioid/fake pills prevention. Additionally, BOAT provided resources related to substance treatment, recovery, harm reduction and mental health and wellness. Events included were: Overdose Awareness Candlelight Vigil, with 40 people in attendance, 30 luminary bags created and 2,125 Purple Flags were planted to remember those we have lost to an overdose and renew our commitment to end overdose and related harms. Additionally, 3 speakers presented: State Representative Aaron Saunders, Team Sharing, and Western MA Young People in Recovery. The event was covered by channel 22 news. Other events attended included the SOAAR 5k & Music Festival, Sober in the Park, Stephen Hill Presentation for grades 6-12, Stephen Hill Lunch and Learn with 21 youth in attendance from the HS Student Council and Helping Hands group, American Suicide Prevention Foundation "Out of the Dark" walk, Belchertown Parade, National Night Out, 1 Movie Night in collaboration with the Belchertown Recreation Department Trunk or Treat, Winter Night Lights, SOAAR Vintage Fair, 5 Farmer's Markets, 5 BPS open houses, and 2 Drug Take Back Days (yielding 16 large boxes of non-used medications), Aaron's Race, We Care365 Fair, Umbrella of Wellness Fair, Student Council and Helping Hands Wellness Fair, and Red Ribbon Week activities. Over the past year 68 free medication lock boxes, 42 988 Magnets, 125 Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Booklets, 58 Naloxone doses, 16 Fentanyl Test Strips, 63 Operation Parent Handbooks – Middle and HS, 67 Operation Parent Handbooks – Elementary, 38 SAMHSA Talk They Hear You Pamphlets, 20 parents downloaded the TTHY App, and a plethora of other informational resources were distributed at these information sessions over the last year. Further, BOAT donated 30 lock boxes to ClearSky Cannabis Dispensary with efforts to reduce youth ease of access. Also, 100 palm cards were given to ClearSky on How to Safely Store Cannabis with warnings about accidental ingestions by pets and children. Poison control hot-lines were included on the card.

The DFC staff posted 238 substance prevention related posts on our Facebook page, including 40 posts from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) "Talk They Hear You" (TTHY) Campaign. The TTHY campaign is an underage drinking prevention national media campaign that empowers parents and caregivers to talk to children early about alcohol and other drug use. Other posts included featured event from local partners and information from other organizations, i.e. Parents Against Vaping, Operation Parent, SADOD, Get Smart about Drugs, National Alcohol and Drugs Fact Week. BOAT's Facebook page yields 474 Followers from 10 different towns and 2 countries (34.8% Belchertown Residents). Additionally, the DFC staff posted 49 "blurbs" in the BPS Friday Focus Newsletter sent out weekly to all parents/caregivers in the school district. Further the Helping Hands student group (consisting of 20 students) developed an Instagram page and have 22 posts and 81 followers. BOAT appeared on BCTV 17 times, Western MA News and WWLP 22 News one time. Additionally, BOAT was featured in 38 press releases were published, including Belchertown Sentinel, The Reminder, The Hampshire Gazette, SADOD Newsletter, SPIFFY newsletter, and the CDC newsletter.

BOAT, Continued

Enhancing Skills and **Providing Support** are 2 more of the 7 strategies we focused on. One initiative includes the DFC Staff providing Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training, which introduces common mental health challenges for youth, review typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5- step action plan for ho to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Attendees increased their knowledge (as noted by the YMHFA post-evaluations) and confidence in approaching a youth with a mental health condition or substance use crisis and are certified in YMHFA for 3 years upon course completion and passing an exam. The DFC Staff trained 85 adults last year. The DFC staff was involved in the following conferences: BSAS, HIDTA, Stanford's Cannabis Awareness and Prevention, and 48 Professional Development webinars/meetings; 142 meetings with partner organizations; CADCA National Leadership Forum.

Modifying Policies. BOAT continues to perform tobacco and alcohol purchase survey checks and education around current regulations, both state and local. BOAT ensures that required signage is posted per MA State Tobacco laws. In Spring 2024 all stores were educated regarding signage, flavored wraps, manufacturer letters, as well as, were distributed ALL signage to retailers in order for all businesses to be in compliance. During Fall 2024 BOAT collaborated with the Director of Public Health in researching Nicotine Free Generation regulations and Zyn nicotine pouches. Upon gathering evidenced-based research, these public health concerns were brought forth to the BOH. Ultimately, the BOH passed NFG and a ban on Zyn/nicotine pouches, except for 21+ stores, which we do not have in our town. 10 Helping Hands students testified at the hearing, donning signs with statistical evidence of the harms of tobacco/nicotine and each student had an opportunity to speak. BOAT performed alcohol purchase survey checks in the Winter 2024 at 12 businesses holding alcohol/liquor licenses. 12/12 of the businesses passed the purchase survey check by asking the "mystery shopper" for an identification. Each business was given a window cling celebrating their successes and touting keeping our youth safe. Each cling is posted in all 12 establishments. Further, a press release was posted in the paper recognizing our businesses and each employee, who asked for identification, received a $25.00 gift card thanking them for their due diligence.

CLAPP MEMORIAL LIBRARY

In 2024, we welcomed 75,699 people into the Clapp Memorial Library. People visited for many reasons including to borrow materials, attend programs, read or study, socialize, get technology help, attend tutoring sessions, use our public computers, photocopier, and fax.

The Library houses a small but select collection of 30,956 items including books, magazines, newspapers, audio-books, music CDs, DVDs, Launchpads, mobile hotspots, museum passes, video games, adventure kits, and a ukulele, among other items. Many patrons made use of these materials with 88,504 total circulations. In addition, we offer a variety of electronic collections, most of which can be accessed from home. These include Ancestry Library, Mango Languages, Consumer Reports, Tumblebooks, Birds of the World, the New York Times, NewsBank local newspaper subscriptions, and – new this year – LOTE4Kids, a database of ebooks in over 70 different languages. Usage of electronic collections and interest in our streaming services, Kanopy and Hoopla, continues to soar.

There were 5,644 Belchertown residents with library cards, and we issued 615 new cards this year. Staff answered 7,432 reference questions and our website was visited 32,178 times.

In 2024, patrons of the Clapp Memorial Library saved almost 2.9 million dollars by borrowing over 123,000 physical and digital titles instead of buying the material outright. If we stacked every physical book you borrowed from our library this year on top of each other, they'd reach 1.6 miles high, or in New England measurements, about 20,430 medium DUNKIN' coffee cups!

Membership in the CW MARS resource sharing network leverages our collection by allowing our users to borrow materials from over 165 member libraries with combined collections of over 8 million items. Our library's collection is 24,481% larger thanks to being part of the CW MARS network, and our patrons made the most of it in 2024! This year, they requested over 13,000 items from across the state, which were delivered right to our library.

Programming and outreach remain core services. We had a total of 625 programs with 10,673 total participants. Programs included our five monthly book clubs; four weekly children's story times; musical concerts for all ages; local history lectures and workshops; workshops on gardening, writing, needle felting, and meditation; role playing game sessions; puzzle competitions; and teen trivia and movie nights. This year, 123 adults participated in our Winter Reading Program.

The Summer Reading Programs were well-executed and well-received. Participation increased with 257 people participating in the Adult Summer Reading Program and 107 teens participating in the Teen Summer Reading Program. The theme for the children's summer reading program was "Read, Renew, Repeat," and 495 children participated. Once again, Belchertown artist Scott Fisher designed an original logo for the program. We are lucky to have such talented individuals in our community!

The Library successfully applied for and received three Community Preservation Act grants. The first one was completed over the summer and restored our historic 1877 Steinway grand piano. We had a celebration concert at the Belchertown United Church of Christ, where the piano resides, in November to welcome the piano back to Belchertown. Another grant will complete necessary safety improvements to our north entryway. The schematics were drawn up, but supply chain delays have pushed the project back until Spring 2025. We also received funding toward the restoration of our south-facing stained-glass window.

Clapp Memorial Library, Continued

After community engagement initiatives including a public forum, focus groups, and a survey, we completed our next strategic plan for FY2026-FY2030. We then used this new plan to complete our FY26 Action Plan, which was due this December. We are grateful to Deb Hoadley for her consulting work and expertise on this project.

We continue to collaborate with other Town departments through strategic partnerships including work with the Planning Department and Department of Public Works on the Making It Public grant program that will bring public art to Belchertown in 2025 in the form of murals on containers at the Transfer Station. We partnered with the Conservation and Planning Departments on a wildlife and landscape photography program that included workshops, a photo contest, and art exhibition. And we are partnering with the Conservation Department, Planning Department, and Senior Center, along with community liaisons, on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 grant program.

Our historic building requires considerable ongoing care and maintenance. The Limited Use Limited Access (LULA) elevator is over 25 years old and the model is no longer supported so we have had continued problems keeping it in service. There were several weeks during the fall when the elevator was unavailable, and our building was not accessible. We also focused on repairing the masonry, including repointing around the building and repairing the chimney. We were able to complete these masonry repairs in part thanks to an anonymous donation.

This year meant big changes when it came to personnel. Ann Kuchieski retired in September after 30 years of service to the Town. In October, we welcomed Marcin Marszalek as the library's Circulation & Reference Librarian. One of our pages, Goose Charron, left in August to attend university full-time and we welcomed two new pages: Alyssa Lussier and Ava Powell, who started work in June and October, respectively.

Respectfully Submitted by
Cyndi Harbeson, Library Director

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Committee Overview

The Communication Committee focused on enhancing town communication infrastructure, promoting transparency, and fostering community engagement. Key initiatives included advancing the Belchertown website, exploring the creation of a town newsletter, and initiating plans to hire a part-time Communications Manager.

This year saw significant changes in committee membership. Early in the year, one member resigned, and later, another member resigned and was subsequently hired as the town's Communications Manager. Additionally, one member reduced their role to that of an associate member. Despite these transitions, the committee welcomed three new members, including one of the youngest committee members in town history. Furthermore, two ex-officio members joined the committee: the Communications Manager and the BCTV General Manager. We now have a total of 7 active members with no open seats, an associate member, a select board liaison, and two ex-officio members for a total of 11 brilliant minds working towards the betterment of Belchertown's communication efforts. In order to be a more effective committee we had our authorized committee size changed from 9 members to 7.

Key Projects and Activities

Progress on the town's digital presence was a central focus this year. The committee researched new vendors to host the town's website and selected CivicPlus. It then undertook a complete overhaul of the Belchertown.org website (https://www.belchertown.org), enhancing its functionality and user experience based on community feedback. Analytics have helped monitor website traffic, which saw over 18,000 visits in the first three months. The committee also expanded the town's social media presence on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/TownofBelchertown/). Also a comprehensive Social Media Policy was developed with input from the Clapp Library and Town Counsel to ensure alignment with community needs and legal standards (https://www.belchertown.org/documentcenter/view/433). In the first three months after its launch, belchertown.org saw over 18,000 new users visit the site. Since establishing the Town of Belchertown Facebook page in late September, we have seen over 58,000 organic views with a reach of over 13,000. While growth has been flat, participation from followers and non-followers alike has been steady.

The committee conducted a comprehensive Town Communications Survey, which received 231 responses from residents, businesses, and town employees. Members dedicated significant time to analyzing the data, identifying key insights into how residents receive and prefer to receive information about town activities and services. The results were compiled into a detailed report with an executive summary, which was presented to the Select Board to inform decision-making and future communication strategies (https://www.belchertown.org/557/Resident-Communications-Survey-Analysis). This effort highlighted the importance of surveys as a tool for community feedback and planning.

The committee played a supporting role in town branding efforts initiated by the Creative Economy Coordinator. While these efforts were largely driven externally, the committee ensured representation in the newly formed Branding Belchertown Committee. Additionally, the committee approved funding for data collection to better understand town communication issues, which will help inform future initiatives. The committee also assisted the Board of Health in navigating online participation for a significant public meeting, ensuring accessibility and effective communication during a critical discussion.

The creation of a comprehensive Communications Plan was another central focus. Drawing inspiration from municipalities such as Lexington, Massachusetts, the committee drafted and is continuing to refine a strategic plan that incorporated external best practices and internal committee feedback. Demographic analyses using U.S. Census and American Community Survey data informed the plan's objectives and strategies. A hybrid approach, combining surveys and interviews, was selected to gather insights from town departments and residents.

Work to launch a town email newsletter has gained momentum, with design and template development nearly finalized. The committee plans to release a "Welcome to the Town" issue in early 2025. It also hopes to ensure accessibility by providing printed copies to some physical locations, such as the library and Senior Center.

Personnel efforts included rewriting the position description for the BCTV Manager and the first-ever town Communications Manager, both of which were approved by Town Meeting in May. Both of these efforts were well timed because ARPA funds became available to allow for hiring both positions without impacting town finances. Members of the Committee served on the search committees for both positions which resulted in successful hires, both of whom began their roles in December 2024.

The committee accomplished all of this without its own dedicated budget, realizing significant cost savings through volunteer efforts. However, the new website incurred town costs of approximately $33,325.60 and the new positions were funded through ARPA resources.

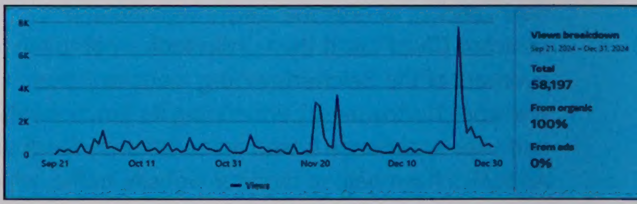
Recommendations for 2025

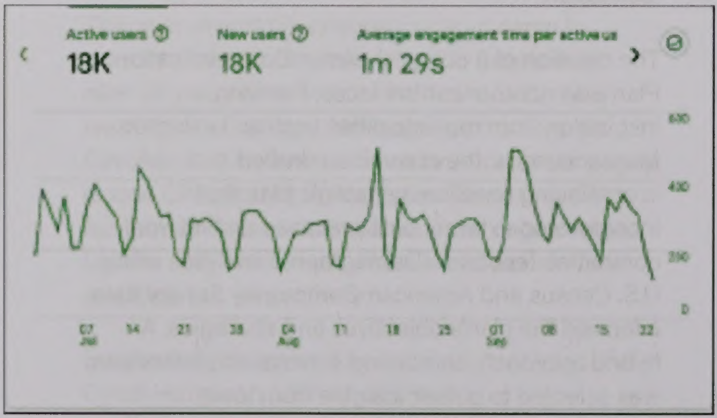
Moving forward, the committee aims to publish the first-ever Belchertown Communications Plan, ensuring it serves as a strategic guide for ongoing and future efforts. This will be a living document, continually updated as needed. Fully integrating the Communications Manager into initiatives and clarifying their role within the committee will be crucial. Enhancing community feedback mechanisms through focused surveys and public forums is recommended to maintain alignment with resident needs. Expanding newsletter distribution and establishing a consistent publication schedule will remain a priority, as will continued assistance in posting to the town's social media page. Additionally, the committee will continue refining town branding efforts, including the completion of the new town seal and logo.

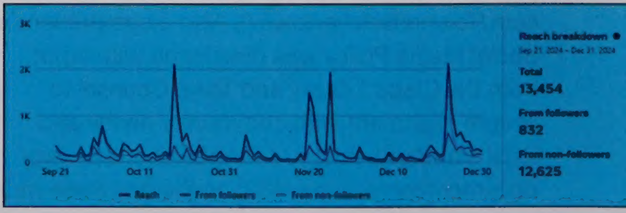
Conclusion

The Communication Committee made significant strides in improving Belchertown's communication channels and fostering community engagement in 2024. These efforts lay a strong foundation for continued success and innovation in the years to come.

Prepared by: Chris Martin, Chair







COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Now in its successful twenty-year, fiscal year 2026, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) continues to review project applications for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds and make recommendations to the Town of Belchertown. These recommendations for funding are then voted on and approved at Town Meeting.

The CPA is a state tool designed to help individual towns and cities preserve and enhance their community. Belchertown voters approved CPA participation at Town Meeting on May 16, 2005. Every year 10% of the CPA funds must be allocated to each of three categories: open space, historic preservation and community housing. The remaining 70% may be allocated to any of these categories including creation of recreational facilities or rehabilitating existing ones.

Under the CPA, the state-match funds raised in Belchertown from a tax surcharge of 1.5% averages $50 per household/year. This year the state provided a 43.84% match. The CPA surcharge for FY 2025 was $336,114.00 and the state match was $70,046.00. However, since many CPA projects include additional outside funding sources, the financial benefits to Belchertown have greatly multiplied the town's own contributions.

The 2025 Annual Town Meeting approved four CPA projects with a total appropriation of $446,743.00, of which the Community Preservation Committee contributed $372,236.00. Some of these projects include:

» Gravestone Restoration at South Cemetery

» Historic Lighting at Town Hall and Clapp Memorial Library Parking Lot

» Lake Wallace/Foley Field Expansion/ Land Acquisition

» Clapp Memorial Library South Stained Glass Window Restoration

The CPC is committed to an open public process that is fair to all prospective applicants and assures funds are allocated efficiently and effectively.

The volunteers serving on the 9-member commission for the past year include:

At-Large, James Natle, Chairman
At-Large, Wilbur Quirk, Vice-Chair
At-Large, Megan Manitsas
At-Large, Vacant
Historic Comm, Alex Loss
Recreation, Donald Longley
Planning Board, Mike Hofler
Housing Auth, Vacant
Conservation, David Lamb
Select Board Liaison, Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz

CONSERVATION COMMISSION / DEPARTMENT

The Belchertown Conservation Department has multiple mandates: implement the Wetlands Protection Act & Belchertown Wetlands Bylaw through the Conservation Commission; acquire, preserve & manage open space lands; conduct public education and outreach; and implement the Stormwater Management Program. The Department has met these obligations, and exceeded them, in a variety of creative and effective ways.

Ms. Sarah Fortune continued to serve as Conservation Commission in 2024. Ms. Fortune performs routine and complex professional, administrative and technical duties such as updating and informing the Commission of changes in Federal and State environmental protection regulations, as appropriate. Ms. Fortune reviews all wetland permit applications and analyzes submitted information and site plans for compliance with the requirements of Wetlands Protection Act, the Rivers Protection Act, the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and associated Regulations, as well as applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

Permitting Overview

Department staff provided technical expertise and coordinated the production of 37 public hearings and meetings held by the Conservation Commission; coordinating, evaluating, and issuing decisions for 16 Requests for Determination; 10 Notices of Intent (12 total, with 2 Notices of Intent continued from 2023); 19 Certificates of Compliance (15 Complete Certificates, 4 Partial Certificates); and 1 Extension Permit. The Department issued 7 Emergency Certificates for the protection of public health and safety. Additionally, the Department issued and pursued compliance with 6 Enforcement Notices and 1 Enforcement Order. Department staff also reviewed and commented on all septic system installation permits, site plan reviews, subdivision applications, ANR plans, and Chapter 61, 61A and 61B withdrawal requests, as well as all forest cutting plans, over 100 items. Department staff have conducted well over 300 site visits combined to monitor ongoing projects and enforcement issues.

Grant Awards

The Department, through the Conservation Administrator, has been continuing to prioritize the acquisition and management of Town open space lands. Over this calendar year, the Conservation Department, through its Administrator, has brought in nearly $150,000 in grants and is on track to continue that trend in 2024. These grants will help preserve and improve natural areas around town and make them more accessible for everyone to enjoy. The Department has worked to preserve new lands, improve the town's existing conservation areas through a variety of projects, and promote long-term goals through extensive grant awards:

The Town continued to work on a $95,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant awarded in 2023 for the pilot program known as MVP 2.0 in 2024. The MVP 2.0 pilot program focuses less on understanding how extreme weather events will impact infrastructural and environmental assets in the community, and more on the social impacts of climate change and building social resilience to address said impacts. This grant allows the Town to investigate factors to create vulnerability for people within the community, update the Town's community resilience priorities with a focus on equity, and developing and implementing a project that makes progress towards those priorities and builds resilience to climate change. The program includes the development of a Core Team, which is a combination of municipal staff and residents that provides training on climate resilience and equity. Core Team members have conducted community outreach and engagement to priority populations including the elderly, the agricultural community, renters, youth, those with chronic illnesses, among other groups, to gain valuable input from these residents. One of the many benefits of this grant program includes guaranteed funding ($50,000) to support community resilience that could go to a wide variety of projects. Completing the MVP 2.0 process will also renew the Town's MVP Community Designation, making it eligible for future Action Grant funding and other opportunities.

The Department also worked on the development of a Watershed Based Plan (WBP) for the Jabish brook watershed in 2024. The purpose of a Massachusetts Watershed-Based Plan (WBP) is to organize information about Massachusetts' watersheds, and present it in a format that will enhance the development and implementation of projects that will restore water quality and beneficial uses in the Commonwealth. This WBP was developed by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) under the direction of the Town of Belchertown with funding, input, and collaboration from the MassDEP. This WBP was developed using funds from the Section 319 program to the PVPC as part of a Regional Nonpoint Source Coordinator Program to, in part, assist grantees in developing technically robust WBPs. This WBP follows the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended format for "nine-element" watershed plans that may make future projects to restore water quality and reduce pollutant loading in the Jabish brook eligible for federal watershed implementation grants under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

Other Projects

The Department organized the first annual Celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 20, 2024 as part of the 'Belchertown Spring Outside Series.' This event was a collaborative effort between the Conservation Commission, the Department of Public Works and the Energy & Sustainability Committee. The event consisted of a town-wide trash cleanup in an effort to combat the effects of pollution on the community, stormwater infrastructure, and rivers and wetlands. The Department provided trash pickup supplies and refreshments, while the DPW provided a free tree seedling to all volunteers to be planted in their yard to combat the effects of climate change and create wildlife habitat. The Department looks forward to continued cross-department collaboration and expansion of this event in 2025.

The Department also supported the Wildlife and Landscape Photography program, which was a collaborative effort between the Creative Economy Coordinator and the Clapp Memorial Library. This program included a series of workshops for all ages and skill levels, a photography contest, and an exhibition which was held at the library in May 2024. This program was wildly successful, having received more than 70 photo submissions which highlighted unique wildlife and landscapes found in Belchertown. The Department looks forward to supporting this program in 2025.

Additionally, the Department worked on updating the Belchertown Wetlands Regulations (BWR) in 2024, which had not been updated since 2006. The purpose of updating the regulations is to clarify and define the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw, which was recently updated in 2020. The regulations establish a uniform process by which the Commission can review and regulate activities that affect the resource areas and interests identified in the Bylaw. Revisions to the regulations include an updated format that mirrors what is used by other municipalities, an expanded list of definitions, enhanced performance standards for resource areas, and a fee schedule that will allow the Commission to collect fees for permit applications outside of those required by the MA Wetlands Protection Act. The Commission anticipates the regulation updates to be finalized in 2025.

Stormwater

Stephanie Sansoucy continued to serve as Stormwater Coordinator for the Department in 2024.

The Conservation Commission is the regulatory Stormwater Authority for the Town, and through the work of the Stormwater Coordinator, is responsible for the permitting process for Belchertown's Stormwater Management Bylaw and Regulations, as well as any associated compliance and enforcement actions. These regulations serve to protect wells, watersheds and public health by establishing requirements and procedures to control the adverse impacts of Stormwater runoff from construction. Thirty-five Stormwater (35) management permit applications were submitted for review in 2024. Four (4) Violation Notices, and three (3) Stop Work Orders were issued for work without a Stormwater Permit. Regular construction-period inspections have continued into 2024, with approximately 170 site visits performed solely for Stormwater management permits. The Stormwater Coordinator educated developers, builders, and engineers about green infrastructure and Stormwater management;

resulting in significant improvements in design and construction of Stormwater best management practices. This education also resulted in additional use of low impact design, green infrastructure techniques, and creative Stormwater management design.

The Stormwater Coordinator, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, has been continuing to achieve compliance with the Town's MS4 permit. This has been achieved through collaboration during the permitting process; increased housekeeping practices like street sweeping and cleaning of catchment basins, shared participation in the Connecticut River Stormwater Coalition, a region-wide association of other Pioneer Valley towns to achieve public outreach requirements, and assisting in identifying and developing grant proposals to help to meet MS4 requirements. Four (4) illicit discharges were detected in 2024; three in which the DPW Director diligently identified illicit discharges in residential areas, and residents were sent informational letters educating them on why sediments shouldn't be allowed to wash into catch basins. The fourth was an accident with a transformer that was leaking fluid. DPW spotted this leak and reported it to National Grid who cleaned the spill and the two catch basins nearby as required. The Town also completed the first required Stormwater retrofit identified as a MS4 Year 4 requirement, in which the Town completed a Stormwater Retrofit project at the Department of Public Works facility in order to mitigate impervious area and reduce pollutant loads to adjacent waterbodies. Additional Year 6 requirements completed included continuing public education and outreach messaging about pet waste, leaf litter and fertilizers. The Stormwater Cordinator was also present at National Night Out with the Enviroscape Stormwater model to educate children and adults on how Stormwater can move pollutants through our communities and landscapes and pollute bodies of water.

The Stormwater Utility Fee continues to successfully and financially aid in the Town's efforts to comply with the MS4 permit and regulate Stormwater discharge to improve water quality. Stormwater runoff is the leading cause of water quality problems in Massachusetts, efforts like increased street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, and drainage and structure repair and replacement are required by the EPA to regulate Stormwater discharges to improve water quality. These costs are covered by the Town's Stormwater Utility Fee, which is a user fee based on the amount of impervious surfaces on each property in town. Residents are billed at 1 unit per 1,000 SF of impervious area. The flat rate in fiscal year 2025 for a billing unit is $6.65. The fee was increased by $0.78 since last fiscal year, but ninety-five percent (95%) of users pay less than $100, and eighty-four percent (84%) are paying less than $50. This modest rate is the same for all users in town, including residential, commercial, tax-exempt, etc. The measurement of impervious area on each property was taken using GIS and aerial imagery. This year the Stormwater Coordinator continued in the effort of ensuring all billing units were accurate and up to date with new construction. The previous updates to ensure accuracy have proved effective, in fiscal year 2025, 2 abatement requests were processed and approved, a significant decrease from 8 abatements in fiscal year 2024.

Conservation Commission Members

The following residents served on the Conservation Commission in 2024: Edward Knight, Chairman; David Haines, Vice Chairman; Stephen Garabedian, Commissioner; David Lamb, Commissioner; Douglas Beach, Commissioner; Matthew DiBona, Commissioner; and Will Duncan, Commissioner. There are vacant Associate Member positions on the Commission, and although they are non-voting positions, they provide a great opportunity for any resident who is looking to gain experience in matters such as wetlands protection, conservation commission and civic procedures, land management, and public education and outreach. The Conservation Commission encourages residents to submit a letter of interest to the Select Board and the Conservation Administrator for Associate Member positions.

The Department is looking forward to new projects for the year 2025 and feels confident that the environment is favorable within the local community to protect and maintain valuable resource areas and open space within the Town. Collaborative efforts by Town departments, Land Trusts, State agencies, private individuals and private landowners only strengthen the chances for successful open space protection within the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Fortune, Conservation Administrator
Stephanie Sansoucy, Stormwater Coordinator

Cattle at Austin Farm
Submitted by Michael Brozek

COUNCIL ON AGING / SENIOR CENTER

The Belchertown Council on Aging (BCOA) is committed to enhancing the lives of older adults, aged 60 and over through services, programs, and activities that educate, assist, and advocate on their behalf.

The Council on Aging remains focused on the goal of meeting the needs of Belchertown's older citizens and continues to collaborate with various local agencies to provide information and referrals to Belchertown's growing older adult population.

The Council on Aging continues to supplement the town budget with alternate funding. The Formula Grant, Federal Title IIIC, Title IIIB, as well as funding from the Older Americans Act through the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs and the Administration for Community Living all contribute to the BCOA budget. In addition, supplemental funding is received through Belchertown Cultural Council grants. This Council is a local agency supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

Identifying and meeting the health needs of Belchertown's older adult community remains a priority. On-site foot care provided by a registered foot care nurse and monthly blood pressure screenings conducted by Belchertown's public health nurse are ways of fulfilling this goal. Tai Chi, Healthy Bones and Balance, a Walking Group and Yoga classes are offered through the Council on Aging weekly. In 2024, the Center offered a 7 week "Create Better Health" series, a presentation on heart health and nutrition, an onsite flu clinic, and a COVID-19 vaccination clinic. Skin care, massage and meditation were also offered as part of the BCOA's focus on wellness.

Meeting the nutritional needs of Belchertown's older community members is accomplished through the daily Community Dining Program, Meals on Wheels Program, and the monthly Brown Bag Program. There are also daily donations of bread available to all those who visit the Senior Center. During the summer the Senior Center delivers bags of fresh produce to older adults, compliments of WestMass ElderCare. The Center continues to partner with the Amherst Survival Center to bring a Mobile Food Pantry to the Center. Each month, bags of groceries are delivered to the Senior Center for those who have previously registered for pick up. This program runs on donations and therefore no cost to the resident. A whole food plant-based educational workshop is held monthly at the Center, complete with examples of vegan meals, recipes and techniques.

Recognizing the need for a strong social network, the Council on Aging has weekly card games, craft classes, Wii Bowling, a quilting group, veterans' and LGBTQIA+ social group as well as monthly movies. The Center hosted many educational seminars in 2024 such as "Future Planning", "Helping Aging Adults Stay in Their Homes", and "Animal Adventures Family Zoo and Rescue Center". Multiple musical performances were held during 2024 before and after the lunch program to help combat the winter blues, to stay cool in the summer, and kick off the holiday season. Our Summer Concert Series was a huge success thanks to financial support provided by the Belchertown Cultural Council and the Belchertown Senior Citizen's Center Association (BSCCA/Senior Center Friends) fundraising group.

One of the most valuable services that the Senior Center has to offer the older residents of Belchertown is its transportation program. Fortunately, individuals are provided an exact pick-up time, as opposed to a 2-hour window given by transportation companies. This helpful option can be offered because the program is operated using BCOA's vehicles. The Center also runs a grant-funded Medical Transportation Program which enables clients to travel outside of Belchertown for medical appointments. A companion picks up

Council on Aging, Continued

the individual at home, drives him or her to the appointment, waits for its completion, and then drives the client back home. A companion available to offer safe and dependable transportation as well as moral support throughout the appointment process puts the client at ease.

The Social Services/Outreach Department is available to all residents of Belchertown. Whether a resident needs a personal referral, one for a family member, or is seeking help with federal and state benefits applications, the Social Services staff can help. The Senior Center is fortunate that both the Coordinator and Assistant are S.H.I.N.E (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselors. They are trained and certified by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and are knowledgeable in many health insurance plans, including Medicare Part A, Part B, and Part D; Medigap insurance, Medicare HMOs, retiree insurance plans, prescription drug programs, Medicaid, Medicare assistance programs and other programs for people with limited resources. Our staff can make home visits any time during the year, accept office appointments, walk-ins, and provide phone consults to Belchertown residents. This is especially helpful during the Medicare Open Enrollment period each year.

The Council on Aging's monthly newsletter is mailed to Belchertown and out-of-town residents. It can also be viewed online or subscribed to and received via email. The Newsletter informs readers of the planned events, classes, meals, and the diverse activities that the Center offers.

The Council on Aging Executive Board of Directors, comprised of 6 dedicated volunteers, lends support to the Council on Aging staff. The Council on Aging Board members are:

Colleen Duroshea-Chair
Maureen Keizer- Vice Chair
Libby Overly-Secretary
Nancy Brill
Diane Plante
Anthony Ricchiazzi

The volunteers of the Council on Aging continue to be its most valuable asset. This dedicated group can be found helping in the kitchen, teaching classes, or putting together the Brown Bags. In total, they donated over 6100 hours of free time to the Belchertown Senior Center in 2024.

The Belchertown Senior Citizens' Center Association, Inc., under the direction of President David Small, sponsored numerous events to aid in the social well-being of the Belchertown residents. The fundraising efforts and financial support provided to the Senior Center by this group directly impact the available programming, activities, and events.

The Council on Aging provides many essential services to Belchertown residents. Every contact is registered as a unit of service and recorded for state and local funding purposes. Listed below is a sample of the key services provided from January 2024 to November 2024.

Activities & Educational Programs:	**4,747**
Health and Wellness Clinics:	**4,800**
Meals Served:	**5,913**
Home Delivered Meals:	**35,001**
Brown Bag/Mobile Food Pantry:	**1,000**
Outreach and SHINE Programs: (Jan- Oct)	**1,015**
Transportation Services:	**1,471**

The hardworking staff at the Council on Aging remains dedicated to their mission to provide excellent service to the older adult population.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Langlois
Executive Director

CREATIVE ECONOMY COMMITTEE

The Belchertown Creative Economy Committee plays a critical role in achieving the town's designation as a Cultural District through the Mass Cultural Council by demonstrating community interest and engagement in arts and culture.

Once this designation is secured, the committee is responsible for overseeing and nurturing the Cultural District, intended to reflect and showcase the identity of Belchertown and its core assets, ensuring that it brings cultural and economic vitality to Belchertown.

Formation

Formed by Select Board: April 29, 2024
Membership Outreach & Recruitment;
Appointments & Scheduling over Summer 2024
First Committee Meeting: August 19, 2024
Recurring Monthly Meetings on Second Mondays throughout Fall 2024

Membership

» Sarah Maroney, Chair

» Jill Bierly, Vice Chair (Historical Commission)

» Cyndi Harbeson, Clerk (Clapp Memorial Library)

» Charlotte Cassidy (Communications Committee)

» Michael Carolan

» Cheryl Dutton

» Louise Levy

» Molly Robinson (Belchertown Cultural Council)

» Loren Walker

» Jen Turner, Select Board Liaison

» E. Maude Haak-Frendscho, Creative Economy Coordinator

Program Areas

» Governance, Charter

» Transfer Station Container Murals

» Branding Belchertown

» Wayfinding Signage

» Cultural District

» View Finder: Belchertown Nature Photo Program

» The Bounty of Belchertown: Farm Guide to Buy Local

» Lake Wallace Pocket Park

» Collaborative cultural marketing

Accomplishments

» Established Committee Governance, Updated Charter, Officers, Schedule

» Completed & Distributed The Bounty of Belchertown: Farm Guide to Buy Local 2024

» Formed Branding Belchertown Working Group, Contracted Branding Belchertown PM & Initiated Program

» Secured Mass Downtown Initiative Funding to support Wayfinding Signage Design & Signage Plan

» Oversaw Competitive Call for Artists for Transfer Station Container Murals, Selected 3 Muralists & Initiated Design Process

» Named View Finder: Belchertown Nature Photography Program; Made Program Design Updates for 2025

» Formed Partnership with Amherst Area Chamber

Creative Economy, Continued

to Support Local Small Business Programs

- Finalized Plans for Lake Wallace Pocket Park Phase 1 Implementation
- Contracted Cultural District Manager

Partners

- Clapp Memorial Library
- Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce
- Agricultural Commission
- Communication Committee
- Department of Public Works
- Historic Commission
- Conservation Department
- Parks & Recreation Department
- Hampshire Bird Club
- Quabbin Photo Group
- Lake Wallace Sensory Trail
- Belchertown Cultural Council

Looking Ahead to 2025

- Town Seal Update & New Logo
- Wayfinding Signage Templates & Plan
- View Finder: Belchertown Nature Photography Program
- Lake Wallace Pocket Park Implementation
- Transfer Station Container Murals Completion
- Cultural District Designation Application
- Amherst Area Chamber Underwritten Memberships & Small Business Networking Events
- Systems Refined & Institutionalized

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Belchertown Energy and Sustainability Committee's main focus has continued to be in three areas in 2024– the implementation of the Belchertown Community Energy Choice municipal aggregation program, the installation of EV charger stations, and public outreach and education. Along with this, committee members worked to align themselves with the Town Resilience and Sustainable Growth Plan.

Belchertown Community Energy Choice

The Town received final approval of the municipal aggregation program from the state DPU in January, allowing our consultant, Good Energy, to go out to bid for electricity pricing at a bulk rate based on Town residents and businesses participation in the program. Fortunately, the market was favorable yielding good pricing for the three options the program was designed to offer for a term of 42 months. Notification letters were sent to Belchertown residents and businesses who had National Grid as their supplier, a public hearing was held, and communications were made available through various sources to inform the public. The program launch was in June with Belchertown residents being supplied by National Grid and who didn't opt out receiving a new supply rate of 13.37 cents per kWhr for the 10% more renewable Belchertown Standard option, the default for automatic enrollment. The other options offered were Belchertown 100, a 100% renewable energy choice at 14.31 cents per kWhr and Belchertown Basic with no extra renewable energy provided at 12.96 cents per kWhr. There are over 5,500 participants in the program with 93% enrolled in the Belchertown Standard, 10 % more renewable energy selection. An Opt-Up campaign to interest people in the 100% renewable option included information booths at several Farmers Markets on the common and at the Exhibit Hall during the Belchertown Fair.

EV Charging / Transportation

EVSE has been chosen as the equipment vendor for a two dual head level 2 charging station to be located in the Town Hall parking area. A grant request for the electric vehicle charging station has been submitted to MASS EVIP and are awaiting their response. We worked with the vendors to lock in the quotes through December 2024, and to extend that pricing while we still waited for Mass EVIP approval for the grant.

The committee also met with East Coast Renewable Energy, a provider of EV charging systems. The committee opted not to pursue further action at this time.

Outreach and Education

The committee participated in the Earth Day event held on the Town common, assisting in registration and information sharing. The Sentinel newspaper published several items submitted by the committee. An article, Celebrating Earth Day All Month Long, highlighted some of the activities encouraging sustainability being held in Belchertown in April. As a follow up, the committee submitted pictures from the townwide cleanup to The Sentinel which were subsequently included in a later edition. Another article, encouraging residents to opt-up to 100% renewable energy, reminded residents that the Belchertown Community Energy Choice program offers both standard and 100% renewable energy plans.

The committee again worked with the Clapp Memorial Library summer reading program by providing a hands-on recycling sorting game. An essay contest in conjunction with the Town library is underway. Sustainable Holiday Hints flyers were delivered to both the Clapp Memorial Library and the Senior Center. In addition, a section of Sustainable Holiday Hints was displayed on BCTV.

Climate Resilience & Sustainable Growth Plan

Each committee member aligned with a specific section of the Town Climate Resilience and Sustainable Growth Plan, of which there are seven – Working and Natural Lands, Housing, Transportation, Food Security, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Land Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation, and Equity and Environmental Justice. Each member is tasked with identifying next steps that can be taken to position us to effectively advance the Climate Resilience and Sustainable Growth Plan, be it a specific project or in working with other committees and departments toward a specific goal.

Other

A grant application for $500 was submitted to Mass Cultural Council to assist in costs incurred for project services and information sharing, Awards will be announced in January 2025.

In an effort to educate the committee and the public, the committee had guest presentations by a pollinator specialist to explain to the committee the benefits of developing a pollinating garden and a specialist who briefed the committee on the benefits of recycling latex paint.

At year end, the committee voted to increase the membership to nine and was approved by the Selectboard. This was to accommodate replacing impending outgoing members and bring in interested applicants.

FAIR AND PARADE COMMITTEE

Belchertown celebrated its 165th annual fair and parade. This year's theme was "Barn in the USA". The Belchertown community raised the fair barn this year. From the new tents, the parade, vendors and fair goers, we can't imagine how it could be better. The lines and smiles at the food vendors told us most people were enjoying their favorite fair food. Every ride and activity was busy. Even the weather was on our side. When other small fairs are closing their doors, we remain fortunate to have this event.

Amusement rides were provided by Fannelli Amusements, a family-owned business encompassing three generations.

Saturday's parade stepped off with a police escort with Belchertown's own Police Chief Pacunas. Chicopee Comp ROTC Color Guard led the professional and amateur units. Antique cars, trucks and tractors were present. Floats, fire trucks, two high school bands and a middle school band also joined the parade.

The Fair included seventy-five vendors, horse and oxen pulls, kids' tractor pulls, social tent, 4-H tents, and kids' tent. The Exhibit Hall was very busy. Everywhere you looked had smiles, people catching up, and enjoying time together.

Awards:

Gary Whitlock Best Presentation of Theme Decorated Booth

Youth Booth Winner: Belchertown Girl Scouts
Adult Booth Winner: Christ Community Church

Giant Pumpkin Contest

1st Place Giant Pumpkin
Joseph Roberts with 765 lbs **Fair Record**
2nd Place Giant Pumpkin
Julia Roberts with 587.5 lbs
3rd Place Giant Pumpkin
Michael Vinich with 99 lbs

Parade Awards:

Judge's Award- Best Presentation of Theme:

Day School/Relentless Towing

Kevin Brown Founders Award-Celebrating Creativity, Agriculture or Community Spirit:

Pathfinder Tech

Floats

1st: Friends of Clapp Memorial Library
2nd: Complete Septic Service
3rd: Austin Brothers Valley Farm

Bands

High School: 1st: Belchertown High
2nd: Chicopee High School

Youth Band: 1st: Jabish Brook Middle School

Marching Units (Amateur)

1st: Footloose
2nd: Eagle Cheerleaders
3rd: Christopher Heights of Belchertown

Marching Units (Professional)

1st: Chicopee High ROTC Color Guard
2nd: Hampshire County Sheriff's Department

Antique Cars

1st: Leo and Gretchen Martin
2nd: Daniel Alley
3rd: Tom Stockton

Antique Tractors

1st: Chris Beauchemin
2nd: LMobesindsey
3rd: Garrett Mosio

Antique Trucks

1st: Mark & Gail Belanger
2nd: Henry Eskett

Antique Apparatus

1st: Mary Jane Hose Wagon
2nd: Antique Ladder Truck

Best Themed Dressed Animals

1st: Caballos De Pauo Dog in Hat
2nd: Country Bank for Savings Mascot
3rd: MA Forest Fire Control Smokey the Bear

Animals

1st: Oliver the Comfort Dog
2nd: Caballos De Pauo Dancing Horses
Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together Dog

Exhibit Hall Awards:

Exhibit Hall Grand Champion
Alec Rose

Andy Michaud Apple Pie Contest
Adult: Kate Nadeau

Helen Papp Award
Lloyd Butler Jr.

Preston Atwood Award
John Alves

Glen Butler Award
Lloyd Butler Jr.

E.C. Howard and Son Awar
Laurie White

Hubert and Jennie Greene Award
Amber Cushing

Les Campbell Award
Michelle Garrow

Bob Wilson Award
Kimberly LeClerc

Fair Cake
Youth: Jackson Quinn
Adult: Kate Nadeau

Parade and Fair Committee, Continued

Scarecrow
Youth: Eugene Nadeau
Adult: Tiffany Piesyk

Elsie Waskiewicz Award
Jeanette Crumb

Judy Bettencourt Award
Jordan Winfield

People's Choice
Youth: Finn Healey
Adult: Wendy McDonald

Kevin "KB" Brown Award
Andy Ingot

Fair Logo
Adult : Lorraine Southwick
Youth: Emma Scoon

Oxen Pulls

Overall Best Teamster Award
Hunter Lucena

2,400 and Under
1st: Wayne Allen – crossed 9,000 lbs
2nd: JKyle Clark – crossed 9.000 lbs withdrew
3rd: Colby Haskil

2800 and Under
1st: Jesse Dewkett – 110,00 lbs
2nd: Kyle Clark
3rd: Kennedy Loulton

3,200 and Under
1st: Rob Bertholic
2nd: Ken Moutlon

Free for All Class – Over 3,200
1st: Jesse Dewkett
2nd: Colby Haskell

Horse Pulls

3,300 and Under
1st: Dug & Kayla Trow with Opie & Louie
2nd:Fred Koloski with Champ and TeBird
Best Driver (in memory of Joseph Austin) Fred Koloski

3300 and Over
1st: Brian Kleeberg with Buck & Davey
2nd: Alan Boisseau with Oliver & Maz
3rd: Dug & Kayla Trow with Duke & Opie
Best Driver (in memory of Joseph Austin) Doug and Kayla Trow

Frog Jumping Contest

Youth
1st: Josie Boyko with Capt Hook
2nd: Declan Szczepanek with Chunky
3rd: Charlotte Vickers with Unicorn

Adult
1st: Olivia Courchesne
2nd: Jason Lafleur
3rd: Mary Wojtowicz, Jacob O'Connor

Poultry Show

Youth
Best in Show: Claire Austin – Bearded White Pullet
Best Standard: Kiely Kinchia – Light Brahma Cock
Reserve Standard: James Cote – Blue Ameraurcana
Best Waterfowl: Madison Davis – Old Cayuga Drake Black
Best Bantam: Theo Bachand – Leghorn Cock

Pre-Cloverbud Showmanship
1st: Theo
2nd: Christopher Davis

Cloverbud Showmanship
1st: Claire Austin
2nd: Paige Holmes
3rd: Gabriel Davis

Fair and Parade Committee, Continued

Novice Showmanship
1st: Chavan Cohen
2nd: Sincha Cohen
3rd: James Kinchla

Junior Showmanship
1st: Mason Shattuck
2nd: Kylie Liptak
3rd: Lillian Kaczawka

Senior Showmanship
1st: Kiely Kinchla
2nd: Jena Rose Zawalski
3rd: Maeve Fitzgerald

Rabbit Show

Best in Show: Luna Marie Lee
Reserve Best in Show: Andrew Mason Galvagni
Best Showman: Kylie Liptak

Junior Showmanship
1st: Kylie Liptak
2nd: Wesson Backus
3rd: William Wentworth
4th: Everett Backus

Senior Showmanship
1st: Elizabeth Scalera

Cloverbud Showmanship
1st: Paige Holmes
2nd: Christopher Davis
3rd: Andrew Mason Galvagne

The Committee would like to thank the Select Board, Police and Fire Departments, EMS, Department of Public Works, Belchertown Water Department, and the Town Hall and its Administration for all of their help.

Many hours are spent planning the parade and fair. Thank you to all of our volunteers and sponsors; their help is never forgotten. Without the efforts of the Fair Committee and all of the people who donate their time, this event would not happen.

We are all looking forward to next year's fair and the theme "Barn in the USA."

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nute, Chairman Belchertown Fair and Parade

FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Belchertown Fire - Rescue Department is a combination of the Town's dedicated firefighting and emergency medical services personnel. Our commitment towards life safety and property protection is our primary goal.

These Department services are fulfilled through the efforts of twenty-four full-time staff, one Fire Chief and 15 Call Force Firefighters. Through consistent training sessions, improved and advanced equipment and with our level of staff professionalism, we strive to consistently meet the needs of our community on a daily basis. We would like to thank the Belchertown community as we strive to improve the services and resources that we provide to all of our residents

Community Outreach

The Department collaborated with area Emergency Services partners and had another successful year with a successful open house during Fire Prevention Week. The open house allowed citizens to interact with Firefighters in question and answer sessions, participate in interactive truck tours and participate in hands on fire extinguisher demonstrations. Fire prevention information was plentiful and it was an overall favorable turnout. Our partners in M.E.M.A. , Belchertown Police Department, Wing Hospital and Animal Control added tremendous value in their individual participation in the event. There were approximately 100 residents in attendance at the event.

Our group continues to partner with our public schools to actively promote our SAFE program. This year, our personnel visited a total of 522 youth in schools to reinforce fire safety both at home and at school. We are also working with our Senior community to promote the lockbox program and installation of the red metal street number signs.

Firefighting Personnel participated in National Night Out on August 6, 2024. This event gathered approximately 300 people together to promote a stronger partnership with our community police.

Our personnel attended the annual Halloween Trunk R Treat on the Town Common hosted by the Belchertown 4-H Group as well as the annual Rag Shag Halloween Part at Chestnut Hill Community School.

Grant Acquisition and Use

The Department continues to apply for and receive grant awards for improved equipment and resources throughout the year. Our Grant Acquisitions include:

» Grant support for a Fiscal year 2024 EMPG Grant in the amount of $ 7300. This grant allows for the purchase of multi sensor meter chargers, a hand held power tool and hand held lighting devices.

» Grant support for the purchase of 2 new powered ambulance cots and 2 new powered lifts for the cots.

» Grant support for 5 employees to complete their professional education with attendance in Paramedic school

» Grant support for an AFG grant (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) for the purchase of 42 new Particulate Hoods; the hoods prevent the Firefighter from exposure to harmful chemical contaminants at the fire incident.

» Grant support for balance of funds available in our Extrication Grant Fund enabled the Department to purchase new lifting bags and a new control unit for vehicle extrication purposes in May 2024.

» Grant Funds were used towards the installation of our new Plymovent Exhaust filtration system in the garage.

Fire-Rescue Department / Emergency Management, Continued

» Grant Fund enabled the Department to purchase and put to use new Brush gear.

» Grant Funding from Dept of Fire Services was received in the amount of $ 19,000 for Fire Equipment and turnout gear.

» Grant Funding allowed for the purchase of our new Tanker Truck. The Fire Department took delivery of our new Tanker truck in 2024. The Tanker is in service and was secured through an A.F. G. Grant (Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant) which saved the Town of Belchertown $450,000. Attributes of this new Tanker include: transport of 2600 gallons water and a Compressed Air Foam System (known as a CAFS system) contained within the truck. The CAFS system helps facilitate improved water usage during a fire event. These features have tremendous merit in those non –hydrant areas of our Town. Additionally, the Department has our new Pierce Ascendant Tower Ladder Truck that is now in service; this truck has a 100 ft. tower and functions as both an engine and a ladder; it carries 300 gallons of water, has a 30-gallon foam tank and a compressed air system as well. The truck's platform allows firefighters to wear belts and harnesses to create a safer and more effective workspace than conventional ladders. The attributes of this vehicle are significant for our community and our partnering communities.

» We continue to partner with Pathfinder Regional Technical School in a collaborative effort to construct additional living quarters for our staff. Our original estimate for the project which started in 2023 was given to us with a total cost of $ 1.7 million dollars. Our partnership with Pathfinder Regional in conjunction with our Department of Public Works has dramatically decreased our total project cost to an estimated cost of $188,000.00.

» Both of our new ambulances were received and licensed in January and May of 2024.

Types of Fire and EMS Incidents Responded to by the Department:

Wildland fires, CO alarms, Hazardous spills, faulty appliances, sounding alarms, life safety inspections, investigations, mutual aid responses and ambulance responses accounted for our Department's total number of 2781 combined EMS and Fire incident responses. EMS calls accounted for 2158 calls out of the 2781 incident calls (78% of our total call volume is represented by our EMS calls). Fire incident calls accounted for 623 calls out of the 2781 incident calls (22% of our call volume is represented by our Fire incident volume) Belchertown Fire Department provided Mutual Aid to neighboring Towns a total of 172 times. In reciprocity, other Departments provided Mutual Aid into our Town a total of 62 times.

Over the course of the year there were 149 times that personnel responded to the fire station for station coverage. This is used when all on duty personnel, or all but one are out of the station on calls and allows coverage to remain in town. Additionally, there were 1423 overlapping calls that occurred within the Fire Department; overlapping calls is defined as 2 or more Fire / EMS calls that occur simultaneously in the Department at one time.

With the staffing of 6 additional Firefighters provided to our Department thru funding from the SAFER Grant, our mutual aid requests have drastically reduced from 183 calls in 2023 to 62 total calls. These additional personnel allow our mutual aid partners to remain in their own Towns for availability to their own Towns for all calls that may require their services. This also means that when other Towns request assistance from

Increases in EMS and Fire –related incident calls continue to rise annually. There was a 12 % increase in the number of combined calls in 2024 versus 2023 (which is equivalent to 336 more total emergency calls in 2024 vs. 2023)

We continue to implement improved inspection –related processes to ensure adherence to all Departmental regulations.

Fire-Rescue Department / Emergency Management, Continued

Inspections and Permits for 2024

Open Burning Permits	469
Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Inspections	135
Life Safety Inspections	22
Oil Burner / Oil Tank Inspections	55
Propane Tank Inspections	75
Solar Permit Review	107
Number Youth Visited in SAFE program	522
Food Truck Permit Inspection	20

Respectfully Submitted,
Fire Chief John S. Ingram

Austin's Tractor.
Submitted by Andrea Filipkowski

BOARD OF HEALTH AND QUABBIN HEALTH DISTRICT

Background:

The Belchertown Board of Health staffs one stipend Animal Inspector; Janet Lipscomb and through the Quabbin Health District is able to provide one full time Director of Public Health, Andrea Crete, one part time Senior Clerk, Mary-Jo Grenier who staffs the Belchertown Board of Health office Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9AM - 3PM; a full time Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger, one full time Code Enforcement Officer John Prenosil, and a Title 5 Independent Contractor Roger Bacon.

The Board of Health meets the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30PM in the Selectboard's Meeting Room located in the Town Hall on 2 Jabish Street.

The Quabbin Health District is a comprehensive regional health department serving the communities of Belchertown, Pelham, and Ware. The district was established in 1980 by a Town meeting vote and was formed under Section 27A of Chapter 111 of the MOL. It is a joint effort by the three communities' local boards of health to provide their towns with the public health professionals and services needed to create healthy communities. The District provides public health services for the roughly 26,696 residents within these communities' 120 square mile radius. The district provides each town with the shared personnel, equipment, and other resources to carry out the required public health duties.

The Quabbin Health District provides services to Belchertown including but not limited to communicable and reportable disease surveillance via an online epidemiological network (MAVEN), public health investigations, public health messaging, 24-7 public health emergency response, seasonal flu vaccination clinics, tobacco control, substance abuse prevention programs, and State mandated public health inspections and complaint management. You can visit the Quabbin Health District website for more information on services at http://quabbinhealthdistrict.com and for more information on services provided to Belchertown.

The report below details the services the Quabbin Health District provided to the Town of Belchertown for the 2024 calendar year. Please contact the Board of Health by phone at 413-323-0406 or email mgrenier@belchertown.org with any questions, comments, requests for additional information, and to relay any specific public health concerns in Belchertown.

The following is a list of the various permits and licenses issued by the Board of Health office in 2024:

2	Bakery Permits
1	Body Art Establishment
1	Body Artist License
1	Catering Permit
0	Ecology Can
4	Farmer's Market (temp. food)
33	Food Establishment Permits
4	Frozen Desert Permits
1	Funeral Director
1	Housing Insp. Voucher
5	Limited Type II Food
36	Milk and Cream Permits
13	Mobile Food Truck/Unit
1	Mobilehome Park License
0	Outdoor Wood-fired Boilers
0	Piggery Licenses
1	Plan review Fee
2	Public Swimming Pool
0	Recreational Camp for Children
5	Residential Kitchen Permits
10	Retail Food Permits
12	Septic Hauler Permits
26	Septic Installer Permits
1	Tanning Unit Licenses
23	Temp. Belchertown Fair
22	Temporary Food
10	Tobacco Permits
3	Trash Hauler's
4	Tobacco Sales FINE 1st off

Annual Inspection Report:

The following table lists inspection services provided in 2024

Please note Inspection numbers may include re-inspections, and pre-operational inspections.

Belchertown

Perc Test / Deephole Soil Evaluations	57 Total 23 new 27 repairs 7

Upgrades

Septic Application Review (New Construction)	34
Septic Application Review (Repair)	30
Septic Installation Inspections	48
Well Application Review	41
Housing Inspections	11
Lead Paint Inspections	0
Condemnations (#of units)	0
Voucher Housing Inspections	0
Housing Court Appearances	0
Food Service Inspections	48
New or Remodeled Food Plan review	1
Mobile Food Trucks & Temporary Food Vendor Inspections	43
Emergency Beaver trapping permit inspections	1
Nuisance Complaint Inspections	4
Tanning Establishment Inspections	1
Children Recreational Camp Inspections and Licensing	0
Tattoo/Body Art Establishment Inspections	2
Public Swimming Pool Inspections	2
Public Bathing Beach Inspections	1

Animal Inspector Report:

Rabies is a viral disease that can affect all mammals, including humans. The virus attacks the central nervous system and can be secreted in saliva. Because rabies affects people as well as animals, control of this disease has become a top priority for the Division of Animal Health. Massachusetts law requires that owners of cats and dogs vaccinate their pets for rabies. A municipal Animal Inspector is nominated under M.G.L. c. 129 by the Board of Health and approved by the Department of Food and Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health. Animal Inspector duties include investigating into and issuing rabies quarantine orders; investigation of animal complaints; and conducting yearly barn inspections. For additional information on rabies quarantines please visit: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/animal-health/rabies-control-program/

Rabies Quarantines for 2024:

10-Day Quarantines for biting dogs/cats: 25
Rabies Quarantines for Wounds of Unknown Origin: 6

Rabies Testing: One bat

Public Health Nursing Report 2024

Submitted by Kirsten L Krieger RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse, Quabbin Health District

Communicable Disease Surveillance

The PHN is responsible for and has been conducting MAVEN infectious disease surveillance. This requires daily review of notifications for infectious diseases and contacting residents to investigate where they may have been exposed to an infectious disease or illness. The types and numbers of communicable diseases reported in the Town of Belchertown for 2024 are listed below. (at-home COVID-19 testing is not reported to MA DPH).

Case classification terms: Abbreviations: C = confirmed, P = probable, S = suspected

Confirmed event: clinical and/or laboratory evidence fulfills criteria required for true cases.

Probable event: available clinical and/or laboratory evidence meets most, but not all, of the criteria required for a confirmed case.

Suspect event: available clinical and/or laboratory evidence meets some, but not all, of the criteria required for a definitive classification of the case.

Disease Name	Confirmed (C)	Probable (P)	Suspect (S)
COVID-19 (Age < 18 yrs)	58	3	0
COVID-19 (Age > and = 18 yrs)	117	3	0
Babesiosis	0	0	1
Calicivirus/Norovirus	10	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	3	3	0
Cyclosporiasis	1	0	0
Giardiasis	0	2	0
Group A Streptococcus	1	0	0
Haemophilus Influenza	1	0	0
Hantavirus Infection	0	0	1
Hepatitis B	2	1	5
Hepatitis C	2	0	0
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	1	0	0
Influenza	102	0	1
Legionellosis	2	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	36	23
Pertussis	1	0	0
Salmonellosis	2	0	0
Shiga Toxin Producing E. Coli	0	1	0
Tuberculosis	11	0	0
Varicella	1	0	0

Public Health Nurse Activities 2024:

Nurse Wellness Clinics:

» Christopher Heights, Belchertown Senior Center, Pine Valley Plantation

» Community Organizations and Committees worked with

» Quaboag Hills Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP) Leadership Team, Quaboag Hills CHIP Access to Healthcare Working Group, Belchertown TRIAD, Belchertown Age and Dementia Friendly Committee, Belchertown Healthy and Safer Schools Committee, Baystate Health Community Benefits Advisory Council, Quabog Valley Food Policy Council, Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance, Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition

Educational Presentations:

» Safe Storage and Disposal of Medications, Safe Aging at Home, Ticks and Mosquitoes, Blood Pressure, Emergency Preparedness, Nutrition Basics, Dementia Friends Information Session, Heart Health, Oral Health

Emergency Preparedness:

» Belchertown Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise Participant

Community Education:

» Opioid and Opioid Rescue Trainings at Belchertown Town Hall and Belchertown Public Library

Tabling Events:

» Umbrella of Wellness Fair, National Night Out, Food Truck Fridays, Belchertown Senior Center Outdoor Concerts, Belchertown Senior Center Open House

Vaccination Clinics:

» Pine Valley Plantation

» Belchertown Town Hall

Initiatives:

» Monthly Public Health Nurse Newsletter

» Harm Reduction Program expanded to syringe exchange services, outreach to unsheltered residents with hygiene kits

This annual report is respectfully submitted by Andrea Crete; Director of Public Health, Quabbin Health District

HISTORIC DISTRICT BY-LAW COMMISSION

At the Annual Town Meeting in May 1990, The Belchertown Center Historic District was established under Massachusetts General Law, chapter 40C, entitled "The Historic Districts Act." Under Chapter 40C of the MGL, cities and towns may establish Local Historic Districts to preserve and protect buildings and places of historic or architectural significance.

The Local Historic district provides for the review of proposed demolition, new construction or significant alterations within the boundaries of the district, in order to ensure that the proposed work is compatible and not disruptive to the visual character of the district. It does not restrict the use of buildings or land beyond that established by local zoning by-laws. Presently, there are over 200 Local Historic Districts in the Commonwealth. Although there are many significant historic properties within the town, the Historic District Bylaw Commission is responsible for the protection of those structures that are within the center historic district.

During the past year there were several applications filed for proposed work within the Historic District. There were 2 "Certificate of Non-Applicability" issued in 2024.

There was 1 "Certificates of Appropriateness" issued in 2024.

There was no "Certificate of Hardship" issued in 2024.

Any owner of property within the Historic District who contemplates changes to the exterior of their property should obtain an application at the Building Inspector's or Town Clerk's offices in Town Hall for submission of their project to the HDBC for review.

Examples of actions and other business conducted by the HDBLC in previous years include:

-An application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the reuse of the existing commercial structure located at 55 Main Street was received from Berkshire Design Group. Because the application proposes no exterior alterations or modifications to the existing building, the application to this Commission was not necessary.

-A letter of support for the Hope United Methodist Church proposed roof reconstruction/repair to the Bridgeman Block located at 29 Main Street was written.

Since the first Historic District was established on Nantucket in 1955, Historic District Commissions have greatly influenced the preservation of irreplaceable resources throughout the State. We hope that this gives you renewed pride in our historic district, appreciation of the beauty of our town center and the need to preserve it for the future.

Respectfully Submitted

Kristy Reese
Craig Schumacher
Susan Mahler
Jonathan Spiegel
Thomas Stockton
Sharon Burdick

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Our Mission:

The Belchertown Historical commission seeks to protect and enhance the historical integrity of our town. We will identify, document, evaluate, and work to protect our past for our future. These efforts will include outreach to our community about Belchertown's unique history and important historical resources. In doing so, we will collaborate with state, local, and town organizations, town commissions/committees, and interested parties.

Members:

Alexander Loss, Chair, Patrick Bierly, Deputy Chair, Angela Bergeron-Alexander, Clerk, Jill Bierly, Deputy Clerk, Robert Lewis, Susan Tyler, Gerard Miller, Michael Carolan

Work with CPC:

Of 14 petitions to the Community Preservation Committee, 7 dealt with historic elements. The Historical Commission scrutinized each application and voted to support all.

Close collaboration with various town committees and associations:

We have endeavored to work closely with various committees and associations in town. We include the Select Board, Historical Association/ Stone House Museum, Clapp Memorial Library, Community Preservation Committee, Creative Economy Committee, State School Buildings and Grounds Committee, Cultural District, Belchertown Community Alliance as well as the Conservation commission. Other town entities and private individuals are engaged as needed to accomplish our tasks.

Website:

The Historical Commission maintains a website at www.belchertownhistory.com which includes a variety of information, including an inventory of the town's historical places and homes, highlights on projects the commission has initiated, such as the Lake Wallace Trail and the McPherson Sensory Garden, and a contact feature for inquiries on historical preservation.

Obtain and preserve various historical artifacts; organize and catalog historic records:

For hundreds of years, documents have been stored in various locations including the Town Hall, The Finnerty House, The Stone House Museum and the Clapp Memorial Library. There are also archives at UMASS and collections in private hands. A long term project is to organize and catalog many of these records along with updating the inventory of homes that are over 50 years old.

Massachusetts Historical Commission collaboration:

We will seek advice and clarification on issues from the State commission, and we are close to becoming a "certified small-town government" which would give us access to federal funding on certain projects.

Add more Associate members.

The Commission would like to add auxiliary members to assist with ongoing preservation projects.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources is a newly created department that began in June 2022. The department manages all Town recruitments and hiring; provides benefits administration for all employees and retirees; ensures compliance with state and federal laws, Town personnel By-Law and collective bargaining agreements; provides labor relations; oversees employee leave management; and employee engagement. Human Resources also coordinates various staff trainings and updates policies when applicable. The Human Resources webpage is a central location for sharing the Town's job postings, providing information on benefits and collective bargaining agreements. A Town LinkedIn account is active and lists job postings to its growing network. In 2024, the Town has recruited and filled 7 FT/PT benefited Town positions including creating and filling the additional positions of BCTV General Manager, Communications Manager and Grants Coordinator.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne L. Misiaszek, SHRM-SCP
Director of Human Resources

INSPECTION SERVICES

The Inspection Services Department issued fifty-three (53) new construction-building permits for single-family residences. This comprised fifty-two (52) single-family homes and (1) duplex.

The total number of permits for the year totaled 1,711 (12/31/24).

Paul Adzima continues to serve as the Building Inspector as well as the ADA Liaison, Weights and Measures Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer. Justin Larivee and Chris Rice serve as Assistant Building Inspectors.

David Fredenburgh continues to serve as primary Plumbing and Gas Inspector with Michael McCain serving as Assistant Plumbing and Gas Inspector.

Mitch Staszko serves as primary Electrical Inspector. Michael Courtney and Richard Rosazza are serving as Assistant Electrical Inspectors.

LAKES COMMITTEE

s The Belchertown Lakes Committee is responsible for the protection of public health, the environment and the general welfare of the lakes within the Town. For the year 2024, the Committee met twelve times. The Committee has been working with the Tri-Lakes Association, Town Departments and residents to meet recreational, habitat, aesthetic, water quality and other agreed-upon goals for the Town's waterbodies. Belchertown can be proud of our accomplishments regarding lake stewardship efforts for all lakes over the last 10 to 20 years. Data for the Tri-Lakes area has consistently shown a continued increase in water quality and a decline in nutrient over-loading and nuisance vegetation!

During the year of 2024, the Belchertown Lakes Committee used ARPA funding to conduct water quality monitoring. This information will be utilized to assist in developing a management plan for all three lakes. Management must be based on sound scientific data. This monitoring initiative was necessary to track environmental stressors that may threaten the Tri-Lakes system.

In addition, the Committee monitored beaver activity and worked with companies to trap and have beaver deceivers installed and maintained. The Committee also applied for a Community Preservation Act Grant to assist in being able to fund the Tri-Lakes being treated for nuisance vegetation.

The Tri-Lakes are ecologically unique assets to the local and larger populations of Belchertown and adjacent communities. There are recreational, ecological, and aesthetic values inherent to these resources. Conservation through prudent management planning is the most effective way to ensure that these lakes are available to residents for many years to come!

The Lake Committee is anxious to begin new projects for the year 2025 and feels confident that the environment is favorable within the local community, to protect these valuable resource areas.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Smith, Chair
Reenie Desabrais
John Soja
Diane Plante

LAMPSON BROOK FARM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Lampson Brook Farm Board of Directors was formed in Chapter 355 of the Acts of 2020 which was signed into law on January 13, 2021.

This law, sponsored by Senator Eric Lesser, creates a path for the permanent conservation and stewardship of this remarkable 430-acre farm, currently under state ownership. The farm has been under a lease to the New England Small Farm Institute since 2003. The Board is created in the law initially with three members from the Town of Belchertown (Conservation and Agricultural Commissions and Economic Development and Industrial Corporation) and three members from state government (Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and Departments of Conservation and Recreation and Agricultural) (see the Board's web site for past minutes and agendas: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lampson-brook-farm-board-of-directors). The Board includes Vanessa Farny, Chair (EEA), David Haines (Belchertown Conservation Commission), Jonathan Spiegel (Belchertown EDIC) and Tammy Ryan (Belchertown Agricultural Commission), Jennifer Soper (MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation) and Gerard Kennedy (MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources).

The Board is responsible for coordinating a management plan, a survey plan and request for responses (RFR) for the three of the five parcels that make up the 430-acre Lampson Brook Farm. The RFR's are meant to solicit proposals for future ownership and stewardship (as envisioned in the management plan) of the former dairy farm site (Enterprise Zone), the forest parcel and the community farm parcel. The law directs the historic Jepson Farmstead parcel be conveyed to the New England Small Farm Institute and the commercial farm parcel to the Department of Agricultural Resources. The management plan and survey plan process included extensive input from the Board, local community, farmers, and the public, including two public meetings. The Board approved the two plans to be sent to the state Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) which is the owner of the property for the Commonwealth. The above law requires DCAMM's approval of the management plan and survey plan. The management plan and survey plan are available on the above web site.

Since its first meeting in April, 2021, the Board has held twenty four meetings. In 2023, the Board provided final approval of the management plan, and in 2024 the board approved the survey plan providing both documents to DCAMM for final approvals and to ensure the survey may be recorded. The Board continues to seek a resolution to the law that will permit final conveyance of the parcels to new owners under permanent conservation and/or historic preservation restrictions. In 2024 former board chair Robert O'Connor retired from EEA and Vanessa Farny was named as the board member representing EEA.

MCPHERSON GARDEN COMMITTEE

The McPherson Sensory Garden Committee worked through 2024 to enrich the Garden site. A center rose garden, recalling roses grown there in the 1970's, was installed and grew well through the summer and fall. Two trees were donated and planted to grow for many years there. Members and volunteers worked to install new plantings and improve existing beds. A path was developed through the woods to encourage discovery of shade and woodland plants and to provide a different sensory appreciation of the Garden site; a small path was uncovered outside the stone wall. With a shed on site, tools both donated and purchased were stored for easy access and protection from weather. Members established a weekly work morning for development and care of the Garden. As gardens do, it developed and flourished in the course of the rainy summer.

An Open House in May showed to visitors some history of the Garden, how much uncovering had been done at the site and clearing of invasive species outside the wall. Plantings underway were developing sensory experiences present and future. The coming seasons will be used for more planting and nurturing of the McPherson Sensory Garden. Volunteers are welcome to help and participate.

Feedback from visitors indicates that the community is finding and appreciating the value of this quiet and lovely Garden----open to all----in Belchertown.

McPherson Sensory Garden Committee
Patricia Barry, Chair
Sharon Marean, Clerk
Eileen Klockars, Member
Louise Butler, Member
Michael Vinsh, Member

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

During 2024, the Memorial Committee worked through the Veterans' Agent Office to provide needed DD 214s ensuring military honors were provided at the veterans' funerals. Also, DD 214s were processed or evaluated for names to be included on the various war memorials in Town.

Please contact my office at 323-0409 if you have any questions or concerns for the Memorial Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Charly N. Oliva, MSW
Veterans' Agent

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Belchertown Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Committee was established by the Select Board in December 2023 and held its first meeting in January 2024.

The committee consists of seven designated seats representing town and community-wide sectors, including: health care, law enforcement, Belchertown schools, the Board of Health, the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance, Town Finance, and the community at large. The Committee invited local and Hampshire county-wide agencies to be non-voting advisors including Hampshire HOPE and the Quabbin Health District. The purpose of the committee is to advise the Select Board on the most effective ways for the town to spend its opioid settlement funds. The main purpose of the Settlement Funds is to address and mitigate the harms and impacts of the opioid epidemic brought about by opioid manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies. Massachusetts participated in nationwide financial settlements as part of the historic efforts to demand abatement of the harms caused by the opioid epidemic. These settlements bring in over $900 million to Massachusetts; forty percent of the funds are allocated to municipalities, while 60% are allocated to the statewide Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund.

The Belchertown Committee advises the Select Board to insure that the town's funding decisions are in compliance with statewide guidelines requiring funds go to the following: Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) treatment; supporting people in treatment or recovery, including family members; providing connections to care for people who have or are at-risk of developing an OUD; harm reduction services, community education, and outreach; addressing needs of criminal-justice-involved persons for treatment and/or recovery services; supporting pregnant or parenting women and their families, including babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome; preventing misuse of opioids and implementing effective prevention education programs, especially for youth and young adults.

The Committee held a Community Listening Session in April 2024 to further gather input on how best to meet needs of Belchertown residents. As a result of the Listening Session, the Committee developed a grant application process so that local agencies serving Belchertown could apply for funds with a detailed proposal about their goals, audiences to be reached, and how the funds would support their initiatives. In July 2024, the Belchertown Public Schools applied for 2 separate programs. One was enhancing the Drug Free Communities program staffing to do more opioid prevention work among youth for $23,068.63. The second application was for the re-establishment of an after-school program, with an emphasis on health and wellness activities, at the Jabish Brook Middle School for $50,000. Both proposals were fully supported and voted on by the Committee and were approved by the Select Board for funding.

The Committee continued to inform agencies/service providers about its grant application process via local media, emails, meetings, and networking with providers. With great support from the Town Accountant, the committee submitted its Annual Report to the state including information about the type of programs funded, funding allocations, and how the community was engaged. This reporting is required of all municipalities receiving funding.

Submitted on January 15, 2025 by Gail Gramarossa, Chair of the Belchertown Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Committee

PARKS, BEACH, AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Recreation Department continues to offer a range of recreational opportunities to the citizens of Belchertown.

We continue to offer our community annual events such as movie nights, drive-by holiday lighting contest and Easter Egg Hunt. Each year pickleball continues to grow in popularity. Our new outdoor pickleball courts located behind Jabish Brook Middle School, are constantly utilized along with our new courts at CHCS. We have made improvements to our CHCS fields with the addition of a well. Our disc golf course is now officially open to the public. Through the invaluable help of volunteers, coaches, program instructors and the dedication of our staff, we are able to provide basketball, baseball, softball, field hockey, soccer, disc golf, pickleball, twirling, fitness, yoga, tai chi, art, music, jujitsu, summer days & flag football to name a few. Enjoyment and safety of the participants in recreational programing will always be our number one goal.

Our Town Beach on Lake Arcadia is open to the public each season between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We continue to improve the beach experience, landscape and swim area.

We offer Stingray's Swim Team, swim lessons, public swim along with lap swim.

Our morning aquatics fitness program remains extremely popular. Pool party rentals are offered throughout the year and are popular as well.

The Belchertown Recreation Center along with the Old Town Hall are utilized for various programming and public rental. The Center is a popular place to rent for children's birthday parties, events or meetings, while the Old Town Hall can be rented and has become extremely popular with pickleball, pick-up basketball as well as children's parties.

As always we greatly appreciate the tremendous amount of time that our coaches, assistant coaches and volunteers unselfishly give to the youth of this community. We acknowledge the assistance we receive from the Dept. of Public Works, Town Hall offices and the Belchertown School Department, whose commitment to the residents of the town

PLANNING BOARD

There was a wide range of activity in the Planning Department in 2024. Zoning, subdivisions, grants, housing, climate resilience, economic development, and cultural activities are some of the areas that had our attention.

Development Activity

Subdivision Approval Not Required (ANR): Any time someone is to change a property line, even if the same person owns the two adjoining lots, the plan must be endorsed by the planning board and then recorded at the Hampshire Registry of Deeds. If the change does not create a new building lot, or if it does create a building lot but each new lot has the required frontage on an existing public street, subdivision approval is not required. The planning board must simply endorse the plan indicating that it does not create a subdivision.

Eighteen new building lots were created along existing town roads through ANR plans. Numerous other ANR plans submitted simply moved property lines without creating new building lots. The new building lots were created as listed:

STREET	# New Lots
Cold Spring Road	5
Carriage Drive	3
West Street	3
Blue Meadow Road	2
Rural Street	2
Sabin Street	2
Daniel Shays Highway	1
Total Lots	**18**

The Planning Board monitored three subdivisions under construction during 2024. One subdivision was completed that included Meadow Pond Road and part of Jason's Way. Monitoring includes inspections, processing performance guarantee changes, meeting with developers to discuss how to assist them in completing their work, and communicating with residents of the subdivisions.

The planning board is also actively seeking to close out existing subdivisions that have lingered. The board works with developers to create a work plan and seeks to help the developers fulfill their obligations to complete the projects.

We have substantially revised the subdivision regulations, which was a lengthy detailed effort.

Other Development Reviews:

The Planning Board approved three site plans; for Brisa Builders on Carriage Drive, an expansion of Soundscape, and ArcPoint Brewing on Front Street. The board also granted eight special permits for accessory apartments; because of a new state law taking effect this year, accessory dwelling units no longer require a special permit. The board granted one special permit for a marijuana retail store, two special permits for common driveways, and extended special permits for earth removal and a commercial solar photo-voltaic installation. The board also granted a special permit for a contractor's yard, which is notable because of a zoning bylaw change the board promoted that now allows this use in new areas with specific conditions. This served to keep a local business in town that otherwise might have had to move.

Planning Projects and Recommendations

The planning board makes recommendations to town meeting on proposed revisions to the zoning bylaw. Sometimes the planning board proposes a change, in other cases, other parties request a change to the zoning bylaw or map. Any change in zoning requires an application to the Select Board, and for the planning board to hold a public hearing and make a recommendation to town meeting. The planning board does not sponsor nor support every proposed change to the zoning bylaw or map.

Town meeting made several zoning bylaw changes in May. The Planning Department drafted a Battery Energy Storage System bylaw to manage large utility-scale batteries. The board amended the Multiple Dwelling Residential, and Accessory Apartment requirements, and recommended the change to Contractor's Yard noted in the Special Permits discussion above.

The Community Plan, which is the town's master plan, is being revised gradually by finding grants for the work. In 2024, we revised the Community Facilities section focusing on town-owned facilities. This consists of an inventory and public opinions for how these might be used.

The Creative Economy Coordinator continued in her brilliant work. Maude Haak-Frendscho began in 2023 on a contract that was extended to mid-2025. Ms. Haak-Frendscho has been reaching out to businesses, non-profit organizations, and cultural groups to advance this segment of our economy. Anticipating a state-designated cultural district, we contracted with a part-time cultural district manager, Lisa Stahl. Her job is to coordinate events and work with property owners, tenants, artists and artisans of all types, and promote the activities and the town. A branding project was initiated and will be done in 2025. This is to create consistent visual imagery to promote the town.

Extension of the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail is being built around Foley Field and then toward the Lampson Brook Farm, and then to connect with Carriage Grove. We received a three large grants from different sources for over $600,000 to complete this. This trail is a fully-accessible trail with sensory elements.

Other Work of the Planning Department

The town planner has been appointed to serve on the state's Trail Access Working Group, an advisory board for increasing accessibility of trails for everyone. This is with the Mass. Office of Outdoor Recreation. The town planner also coordinated the conveyance of property for a new conservation area, Gingras Woods. This is next to the Lake Wallace/ Foley Field property.

Continuous activities of the planning office and planning board include reviewing and processing plans, monitoring projects, voting on development and land division applications, and making recommendations to the zoning board of appeals and other boards. The planning board reviews requests for changes to zones and the zoning by-law and makes zoning recommendations to town meeting. The planning board reviews common drive developments, subdivisions, "Approval Not Required" plans, non-residential site plans, earth removal plans, and wireless communication facility plans. The planning board also made recommendations to the select board on the town's right of first refusal to purchase land held under Chapter 61 restrictions. The board also advises and assists other town offices, developers, property owners, and the public.

The department provided assistance and advice to the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, to the Lampson Brook Farm management board, and to MassDevelopment on Carriage Grove redevelopment.

The town planner manages the planning office and assists the planning board in development review, procedural interpretation, and research. The town planner also coordinates planning and reviews with other town offices, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, developers, residents, and businesses. The town planner maintains contacts with the UMass Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning department, the Conway School of Landscape Design, state agencies, our legislators, professional planning organizations, and planning colleagues. The town planner also is on the board of the Valley Development Council, the executive committee of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and the Pioneer Valley Regional Housing Committee, and on several advisory committees.

Board Membership

The planning board membership in 2024 was as follows:

Planning Board, Continued

Michael Hofler, single signature authority, Community Preservation Committee liaison (term expires: 2025);

Daniel Beaudette, Chair (term expires: 2026);

Elizabeth Pols, Vice Chair (term expires: 2027)

Bjorn Markeson, Commissioner to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (term expires: 2028)

Leonard Bilodeau, Clerk, Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits (term expires: 2029).

Mark Plante, Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits (Appointed annually to June 30);

We thank Justin Rosienski for serving on the board for five years and providing technical expertise in multiple areas.

Staff

Jacqueline Fredenburgh is the Planning Board assistant.

Douglas Albertson is the town planner and alternate commissioner to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the planning board, Douglas Albertson
Town Planner

POLICE DEPARTMENT

On behalf of the members of the Belchertown Police Department, I am honored to present the 2024 Annual Town Report. Our mission is to deliver high-quality service to all residents and visitors while fostering a work environment that prioritizes the recruitment, training, and development of an outstanding team of employees.

The dedicated and professional members of the Belchertown Police Department, both sworn and civilian, tirelessly strive to ensure the safety of our town by delivering top-notch service around the clock. Our team consists of 23 full-time sworn officers, 7 civilian records clerks, and an administrative assistant, most of whom are either residents or natives of Belchertown. We are proud to be an accredited police department, having earned this distinguished award from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission in June 2020 and again in June 2023.

This year saw several personnel changes, including the departures of Dispatchers Miriam Martin, Michelle Dukes, Cassie Warren and Mary Long, who retired after 23 years of dedicated service to the department. New employees consisted of Records Clerks Michael Curtin, Delbert Martinez and Lisa Haughey.

Our department prioritizes community policing and engagement, demonstrated by a variety of outreach programs and activities. These include Coffee with a Cop, the Blue Envelope Program, National Night Out, Military Tribute Banners, Veterans Day Brunch, Summer Youth Academy, Comfort Dog Program, Child Safety Seat Inspections, Annual Toy Drive, Special Olympics Initiatives, Senior Center/TRIAD Events, K-9 Demonstrations, the SOAAR 5K Event, and Drug Take Back Day.

In 2024, officers responded to 22,714 calls for service, resulting in 229 people arrested or summoned to court on criminal offenses, and 962 incident reports completed. There were 299 motor vehicle crashes investigated and 2,097 citations issued.

The following lists a selected number of incidents investigated and reports completed, and/or criminal charges brought forward:

Abuse Prevention Order Violation	16
Animal Cruelty	0
Assault/Assault & Battery	13
Aggravated Assault	14
Assist Fire/EMS	173
Burglary/ Breaking & Entering	17
Child Pornography	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	2
Destruction of Property	37
Disorderly Conduct	3
Disturbance	68
Drug Offenses	4
Domestic Issues	117
DUI Drugs/Alcohol	21
Gun Law Violations	2
Harassment	20
Fraud	19
Intimidation	3
Juvenile Issues	37
Liquor Law Violations	2
Larceny of Property	50
Missing Persons	33
Medical/Mental	64
Negligent Vehicle Operation	21
Motor Vehicle Theft	10
Robbery	2

Police Department, Continued

Protective Custody	2
Trespassing	33
Sexual Assault	5

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Belchertown, Town Officials, Town Manager Steve Williams and members of the Select Board for their tremendous support of the Belchertown Police Department during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin J. Pacunas
Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Belchertown Department of Public Works is a very dedicated group of employees who provide necessary essential services in a safe, expedient and cost-effective manner. Our continued services produced by its highway, maintenance, wastewater, landfill and cemetery divisions are aimed towards providing the maximum public need and improvement to Town assets and infrastructure, while geared towards the safety and well-being of the community. The DPW celebrates its many accomplishments over the years, by doing so.

Winter weather predictions for 2024 forecasted well above average precipitation across the entire Northeast. Locally, snow accumulation for the month of January totaled 14.25". While that amount is lower than last years 29" our DPW crews had to toggle between intermittent freezing rain and temperatures that posed a challenge keeping our glazed roads treated and passable. Thereafter, a few squalls in February led us into what we thought was going to be an early Spring until April 4th when a wintry mix of hail and freezing rain pummeled our area causing widespread power outages, downed trees and road closures that required our immediate attention. Spring finally arrived, albeit very late, finally allowing our divisions to get a start in other areas needing attention along with those projects that outlasted our long list of to-dos, prior winter solstice. Overall, this winter produced 15 storm events totaling 23.75" of snowfall as compared to last year's 23 storms/34.75" (2023). The following report will attempt to provide a glimpse of other activities our divisions performed throughout the year.

ROADWAYS & RECONSTRUCTION-

North Main-Main Street Corridor Improvement Project

In November 2022, the Select Board approved this project to move forward. The projects one-mile corridor re-design includes new and reconstructed sidewalks, travel lane narrowing, shoulder widening, on-street parking, bicycle and recreational accommodations, and safety improvements including signage and line striping. Engineering is now approaching the 25% design phase.

BUILDINGS GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE-

This division provides maintenance to all 14-town buildings, takes care of 200+ acres of grounds/open space including recreational and school fields, conservation trails, nine cemeteries, athletic fields and town properties. They spent most of their time performing a wide variety of routine maintenance activities including snow removal, painting, equipment repair, athletic field preparations, annual cemetery cleaning, leaf raking and the installation of seasonal/holiday decorations. In addition, mowing was conducted nearly every week for 28 weeks.

They also completed an impressive list of time-consuming projects (listed below) that requires the proper training and knowledge to perform.

- » Assisted Police Department with the annual hanging of Veteran Banners
- » Set up bleachers, picnic tables, trash barrels and no parking signs for the Belchertown Fair.
- » Thatched, aerated and over seeded all playing fields.
- » Set up stars, snowflakes and Christmas tree for First Night Celebration.
- » Cut fields and trails: Blue Dot Trail, Piper Farm Trail, Bay Road Fields, Reed Property and Topping Farm Property.
- » Picked up leaves from all town buildings, playing fields and cemeteries.
- » Put up no parking signs for Tag Sale, Lions Club, First Night and food truck events.
- » Conducted annual maintenance of 53 Detention Basins in various town locations.
- » Annual cutting of grass and swales at Transfer Station Landfill Cap.
- » Built outdoor emergency staircase for bunkrooms at Fire Station.
- » Installed and moved servers to the old EMS building.
- » Installed new mini splits for servers at old EMS building.
- » Installed new generator at old EMS Building.
- » Replaced mini split at Fire Station server room.
- » Replaced heat and AC unit at Finnerty House.
- » Installed new entrance doors at Police Dept.
- » Had floor replaced in exercise room at Recreation Building.

This division also assisted with town wide annual roadside mowing and brush cutting activities. Nearly all of the roads were mowed and approximately two miles of roadside were cleared of excess brush to increase sight distance and to provide space for snow storage.

CEMETERY DIVISION-

In year 2024, this division conducted 26 burials consisting of 9 earthen and 16 cremations, and 1 infant. In addition, 17 deeds were issued and 6 lot transfers amongst private owners. Other activities included archiving deeds, lot transfers and sales, burials, mapping, grounds maintenance, lot layouts, snow staking and pinning of cemetery burial rows and headstone repairs. The Cemetery Division archives all deceased and burial certificates for long-term preservation. Along with aiding genealogical researchers, we also process military markers sent from the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure those who died in military service are properly recognized.

EARTH DAY/ARBOR DAY -

Earth Day was celebrated on Monday, April 22, 2024 and Arbor Day on Friday, April 26, 2024. This year, the Office of Conservation and the DPW collaborated to conduct a dual campaign in honor of both events. The Office of Conservation provided disposable green trash bags and a dumpster located on the Town Common for resident collection of curbside waste. Simultaneously, in honor of Arbor Day the DPW provided one free native conifer tree seedling to participants who returned a full bag of trash. The Department wishes to thank everyone who participated in this event and appreciates your efforts towards keeping Belchertown clean.

GREEN COMMUNITIES ANNUAL REPORT-

We are now in our fourteenth year of reporting since designation in May 2010. (FY'09). Our Annual Green Community Report was submitted on November 8, 2024 to the MassDOER. This online statistical and lengthy report provides necessary data in order for the town to maintain its Green Community status and to further qualify for Green Community Competitive Grants.

GRANTS – ($218,064.00)

Community Preservation Grant: $71,459.00

Historical Lamp Post Lighting. This award was for the installation of 14 historical period lampposts at the Lawrence Memorial Town Hall/ Finnerty House (12) and Clapp Memorial Library (2) parking lots. The lighting project was completed as of December 1, 2024.

CPA Grant: $136,355.00

Town Beach Restoration and Rehabilitation. The DPW submitted a grant as a match to a future Section 319 grant to fund the rehabilitation and restoration of the existing parking lot and construct new stormwater management features at the Town Beach Facility. As of this report, this application has been approved to undergo further review for consideration which will be determined in early 2025 and if accepted will move to annual town meeting in May 2025 for town acceptance.

MassDEP Recycling Dividends Program: $5,250.00

This award is a result of our annual participation in the MassDEP Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) which is based on a point system to municipalities that have proven policies to maximize reuse, recycling and waste reduction efforts and adherence to a municipal Buy Recycle Policy which requires all town offices to purchase any/all office products with a recycled content of up to 30% or to the maximum extent possible.

MassDEP Grant Program: $5,000.00

This award is for the installation of a Universal Waste Shed to house the collection of mercury bearing items, batteries and bulbs to be recycled by town residents who access the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. This new shed will be installed in spring, 2025.

Electric Vehicle Fleet Assessment -

The Department has collaborated with National Grid and their contractor ICF to participate in the Utility's Fleet Advisory Services Program. This no-cost program will provide data, analysis, technical support and other resources to allow for a methodical transition from an internal combustion vehicle fleet to electric vehicles (EVs).

Hazardous Waste Collection –

This year's event was held on Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 9am-12pm (noon) at the DPW highway garage and was assisted by hazmat vendor Clean Harbors from Connecticut. There were 127 vehicles in attendance who produced 1537 lbs/gals of hazardous waste comprising of the following: 3lbs/3gals = 44 vehicles, 10lbs/10gals = 23 vehicles and 25lbs/25gals = 47 vehicles.

Inclusive in this count were reciprocal cities/towns who attended to dispose of their materials:

City/Town	# Residents	lbs/gals
South Hadley	9	176
Granby	1	25
Orange	1	50

The list of host communities is posted upon the DPW website https://ma-belchertown.civicplus.com/206/Hazardous-Waste-Day-Information, and published annually.

SAFETY -

Our Safety Committee was active this past year with organizing departmental training in several topics to include Work Zone/Traffic Safety, CPR, Confined Space, Lockout/Tag out, Fall Protection, and OSHA 10. They also completed a walkthrough of the DPW buildings to ensure safe work practices and improvements were to be implemented and maintained.

NEW Vehicles/Equipment Purchased (FY25)

1-2023 Surety Utility Trailer
1-2024 Freightliner
1-2024 Concrete Mixer
1-2024-Toro Mower

1- 2024 Cam Superline Deck over Trailer
1-2024 John Deere 5075E Cab Utility Tractor

TRADES
1-1997 F800 Freightliner
1-2011 Toro Mower

HIGHWAY DIVISION –

Our Highway Division was glad to receive Chapter 90 Funding totaling $1,036,330.54 for paving and reconstruction of our roads. This amount was generated because of the State's fiscal year allotment of $629,830.54, a Fair Share Grant Award apportionment award (FY24) supporting local infrastructure for $373,935.00 and an additional Rural Roadway Fund Award generated from a program to support the construction and reconstruction of municipal ways for $32,565.00.

In between inclement weather, this division tackled many areas of work to include pothole repairs, street sweeping, sign installation, line painting, repairing equipment, clearing of brush and vegetation from the roadsides and cleaned 403 catch basins. During 2023-2024 snow season, our average expenditure per inch of snow removed from the roadways was $10,686.07. The total cost for the season was $253,794.24.

This Division is responsible for the preparations of all resurfacing/reclamation/overlay projects with bituminous concrete overlay and lane markings. The following streets received this much-needed work.

Sidewalk Reconstruction

Street	Length /Ft.	Width/Ft.
Fuller Street	7,580	21

Total: 7,580ft.

2024 Roadway Reconstruction

Street	Length /Ft.	Width/Ft.
Bardwell Street	7,580	21
Old Pelham Road	2,120	18
South Street	1,340	24
Autumn Lane	1,225	25
Alden Avenue	2,335	17
Carol Ann Drive	1,020	25
Orchard Road	3,667	20.8

Total: 19,287 ft.

Crack Sealing

Street	Length /Ft.	Width/Ft.
Brandywine Drive	1,830	22
Allen Street	1,250	20
West Street	7,230	20
Bay Road	2,300	23
Rockrimmon Street	3,900	20

Total: 16,510 ft.

Totals: 12 Streets, Total Length: 43,377 ft.
Total Cost $621,776.56

The Department also reviewed and issued 34 stormwater permits, 29 curb cut permits and provided comment on numerous Site Plan/Special permit applications to the Planning Board.

TRANSFER STATION –

All aspects of the towns' waste disposal activities are monitored and in adherence to the annual Transfer Station Rules & Regulations. Violators consisting of non-permitted users and/or failure to use the town's orange trash bags are identified and promptly notified. The Transfer Station Rules & Regulations are located on the DPW Town website by accessing https://ma-belchertown.civicplus.com/207/Transfer-Station-Recycling-Center.

Our residential number of household Transfer Station users totaled 1780 (FY'24). Permit stickers were obtained via a combination of onsite sales, town offices and regular mail options. The costs for the Transfer Station Permit Stickers increased from $125.00 to $135.00(+$10.00) annually and for senior citizens age 65+ from $105.00 to $110.00(+$5.00). Town orange trash bag fees remained at $25.00 for size large (10 per bundle) whereas small bags remained at $15.00 (10 per bundle). Town (orange) bags may be purchased at a variety of in-town stores as well as the DPW, Finnerty House and the Transfer Station for resident convenience.

Participation continues to vary slightly from year to year for those who desire to use our disposal/recycling program. The following quantities of solid waste and recyclables were generated during year

2024.

Recyclable	**Per Unit(s)**	**2023**	**2024**
Recyclables	Tons	318.7	323.41
Tires	Single	958s	623s
Solid Waste	Tons	1,071.25	1,063.23
Electronics	Tons	7.94	7.675
Scrap Steel	Tons	95.02	94.15
Textile	Tons	6.25	5.96

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT-

This past year the Wastewater Treatment Plant received and treated approximately 121.6 million gallons of wastewater; 23.15 million gallons less than in 2023 which was 144.75 million gallons.

They also acquired seven new service connections; of which two were within the Tri-Lakes Sewer System and the remaining five were located in the Central Sewer System. This brings the total number of customers served to approximately 1922 equivalent dwelling units (EDU's). The WWTP Staff were busy working on facility operations and improvements including employee training, sewer main rehabilitation, and process meter installations. Other projects completed were Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) #2 diffusers, seals and flap valve replacement, thickener upgrades and sludge pump replacing.

The Staff also worked on sewerage pumping station maintenance and repairs to include a River Street transfer switch replacement, Stadler and Pine Valley Plantation Stations' ventilation and exhaust repairs, electrical component replacements, a pump replacement and periodic pump inspections and wet well cleaning. Additional sewerage collection system tasks completed included sewer lining and cleaning, easement leveling and cutting, and service and structure inspections.

TREE AND VEGETATION CONTROL –

As with every year, the Towns Tree Warden attends the Massachusetts Tree Warden & Foresters Association Annual Conference in order to receive recertification and accreditation to conduct work in the field. In year 2024, the Department continued to aggressively address the removal of hazardous trees along our public roadways. Trees removed were predominately hardwoods consisting of Oak, Ash, Hickory and Maples. Oaks dominated the list as we continue to see their further decline as a result of the severe Spongy Moth outbreak in 2019. The focus of the Department's annual tree removal budget is to actively address trees that are determined to pose a safety risk due to damage caused by weather, rot, or infestation of various nature. Trees are identified for removal or selective pruning in reference to the town's Tree Risk Management Inventory as well as by individual tree inspection.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

As I reflect on this past year, I am thankful for the extra time and effort that my staff and surrounding Departments provided to me as I settled into this role. I learned quickly that it takes an extraordinarily high level of organization, focus and specialized grit to address the daily needs of the town. This report provides an overview of our many accomplishments throughout 2024 but we are only able to meet this high level of standard because of the team behind it all; a humble, hardworking group comprised of dedicated, skilled, professional individuals. I witness this on a daily basis and could not be prouder to lead this crew. There is much work to be done in 2025. I look forward to what this new year brings and the many successes that come with it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Leduc, Director of Public Works

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee awards scholarships annually, when there are available funds, to Belchertown residents in pursuit of higher education and for the purpose of providing financial aid towards the costs of tuition, books, fees, etc. Applicants may be graduates of Belchertown High School, Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School, or a home-school program.

In 2024, the committee awarded three scholarships in the amount of $1,500 each.

The Belchertown Scholarship Fund accepts contributions in any denomination in c/o: the Town of Belchertown Treasurer Collectors Office or by adding any amount to your quarterly tax bill payment. Contributions can also be made by accessing the town's website at www.belchertown.org. Check donations can be placed into the drop-box located outside of the Lawrence Memorial Town Hall, back entrance.

The Scholarship Committee remains grateful for the continued support provided by everyone behind the scenes as well as the generous and continued support of our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Wesley J. Dunham, Chairperson

BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools:

In 2023, the Belchertown Educational Foundation once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to enriching the educational experiences of thousands of Belchertown students. Over the years, countless students have benefited from projects funded by the Foundation. From outdoor classrooms and musical instruments to student-led scientific research and symposiums, the Foundation has consistently supported our students, teachers, and administrators. By creating calming spaces, purchasing furniture, and promoting social-emotional learning initiatives, the Foundation has been enhancing student experiences for over six years. Every contribution makes a difference, and every dollar is deeply appreciated.   Thank you!

During the summer, the administrative team engaged in a professional development activity based on Jon Gordon's book, The Energy Bus. This text served as a foundation for in-depth discussions about the impact of positive energy on educational leadership and school culture. The book's core message, "Positive energy and positive people create positive results," aligned with our goals to cultivate an environment of positivity and collaboration. By embracing these concepts, the administrators are committed to modeling positive behavior and fostering a supportive atmosphere that enhances staff morale and student achievement.

All staff took part in our Convocation ceremony centered around the theme of cultivating a positive mindset. Our day began with Jonas Cain, M.Ed. storyteller, magician, musician, and facilitator of fascination, discussing "The Three Pillars of Positivity." Heidi Gutekenst, School Committee Chair, sang about the life of a potato and the significance of keeping a positive attitude. She also shared examples of her direct interactions with students from Belchertown Public Schools, highlighting their positive experiences and the supportive roles of staff in the audience.

In addition, all staff received their own positive potato swag to symbolize resilience and optimism in the face of challenges. Just like a potato grows underground, thriving in the dark, it reminds us that even in difficult times, there's potential for growth and positivity. When staff need a little cheer to lift them up, they can look at the potato as a reminder that strength and happiness can emerge from the most unlikely places.

The "Three Pillars of Positivity", positive potatoes, and The Energy Bus share common themes of fostering a positive mindset, personal responsibility, and the power of attitude in shaping one's life experiences. All three emphasize the importance of choosing positivity, staying resilient in the face of challenges, and influencing others through a positive outlook. They also encourage everyone to take control of their energy and focus on what they can control to create a fulfilling and successful life. The common thread is the belief that positivity and mindset are key drivers of happiness and success.

I encourage you to read each of the following school department's contributions to learn the greater story of the Belchertown Public Schools. If you have any questions please contact the Superintendent's office. As always, thank you to our families and the community for entrusting BPS with the responsibility of educating the students in our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian C. Cameron, Superintendent of Schools

Finance & Operations Town Report 2024

The Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) school district budget was approved at the May Town Meeting in the amount of $33,185,396 which is an increase of $587,533 or 1.8% over the prior fiscal year. Non-discretionary budget items such as transportation, utilities, benefits and out of district tuition were the driving factors for the increase. The budgeting process began in the Fall of 2023 with a review of all staffing and non-payroll lines with the building principals, who gathered input from staff members and School Councils. Once an initial draft budget is created, the Superintendent, Finance Team, and other key District staff met with the Finance & Budget Subcommittee of the School Committee, the full School Committee, the Town Administrator, the Town Finance Committee, and the Selectboard to review the budget details. The goal is to build a budget that meets the needs of students and balances those needs with the town's financial capacity.

The Business Office is staffed by a contracted service in the role of Director of Finance. A team is currently in place to meet the district's needs: Mark Chapulis and Carol Sauerhoefer are the team leads. Our team is grateful to the Business Office staff: Angela DiVico, Accounts Payable; Leslie Wallace, Payroll; and Kathy Boucher, part-time payroll support and Medicaid reporting; for their hard work in ensuring that everything runs smoothly. Kathy retired at the end of the school year and her part time functions were absorbed by staff members within the Business & Central Office.

Throughout the year the Business Office closely monitors and manages the District's finances, using the MUNIS accounting system to ensure that we meet state and federal requirements and sound accounting practices. The Contracted Director of Finance Team reviews the budget regularly with the Superintendent and other key district personnel. Monthly financial reports, including payroll and accounts payable warrants, are shared with the School Committee. Combined with the FY24 annual budget, the Business Office also managed state and federal grants of $ 1,470,466 (including federal ESSER grants), School Revolving funds of $1,592,532 including Circuit Breaker reimbursements, and a School Choice revolving receipts of $1,128,887 which comprised a total financial operation of $36,248,394 for FY24.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Chapulis and Carol Sauerhoefer,
Contracted Director of Finance Team

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning's Report

Throughout this year, I have continued to focus on assisting administration and faculty with standards-based curriculum alignment, development, and coordination (PK-12), strengthening instructional delivery, supporting supervision and evaluation, managing student assessment, and coordinating professional development during this trying time.

In this regard, I continued to facilitate the District

Instructional Leadership Team (DILT) this year in an effort to align our PK-12 Professional Development efforts. We worked throughout the year to coordinate professional development activities that were focused, high quality, relevant to teachers' practice, connected to the school/district's mission and had a positive impact on student learning. We continue to develop ways to assess PD offered in the district and to try to tap into the many talented professionals that we have in our district.

The focus of our elementary curriculum and assessment work this year has been on Mathematics. We are moving along as planned with the implementation of our new comprehensive math curriculum materials. In grades 6-12, a team of educators worked diligently to update Mathematics curriculum materials and moved forward with the adoption of resources for middle school math, algebra, and geometry.

Much of this year's Professional Development focused on Developing Curriculum Guides. We also continued our work with area consultants in order to develop educators' capacity to support their colleagues as they refine classroom practices that prioritize the purposeful integration of SEL. Other PD work touched on Technology Integration, developing Trauma Centered Practices, and Responding to Hate & Bias in Schools.

These four themes were also supported through building-based PD, district-offered PD opportunities, and partnerships with local colleges and collaboratives.

I value the work that I do with building principals and assistant principals on identifying the elements of high-quality instruction and assessment in their classrooms. This can be done through: joint observations of teaching, mentoring, calibration activities, participation in faculty/department/team meetings, analysis of student data, etc. Spending time in classrooms with students and teachers continues to be the highlight of my day.

Respectfully submitted,Dr. Shawn Fortin
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Student Support Services

The year started with our English Language Learner (ELL) students participating for the twelfth year in the "Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State" (ACCESS) testing. This assessment was given to students identified as ELLs in Kindergarten through 12th grade to identify their English proficiency in reading, writing, thinking, and speaking. Our students worked diligently on this assessment and the data obtained has helped the district better determine the best educational approach for each of the students who participated.

Student Support Services continues to oversee special education programs and services, English Language Learner programs, Section 504 and Homelessness. Essentially, the Student Support Services Department does exactly what the name suggests in that it provides support services for our students.

Special Education programs and services are responsible for providing educational services to students who experience academic difficulty because of a disability consisting of a developmental delay, or an intellectual, sensory, neurological, emotional, communication, physical, specific learning or health impairment, or any combination of the aforementioned. Children ages three to twenty-two, who have not received a high school diploma, are eligible for special education services. In addition to providing for the academic needs of children identified as having a disability, the program provides related services to assist students in making effective educational progress. These services consist of, but are not limited to, psychological services, counseling for school-related issues, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision and mobility training, applied behavioral analysis and speech/language therapy. Students with special needs are provided educational services in a variety of settings ranging from full inclusion in the regular classroom to out-of-district placements. The school district also provides extended school year services for special education students in grades preK-12 to prevent substantial loss of previously learned skills and/or substantial difficulty in relearning skills.

The Student Support Services Department welcomed Teresa Hart as a new School Psychologist, Jennifer Lafleur, Administrative

Assistant, Giovina Ferrante-George, Team Leader, Cynthia Roberge, Team leader and Elisabeth Talis, .5 ELL Teacher.

The Student Support Services Department began the year short-staffed. Only two school psychologist positions out of three were filled. The remaining position has remained unfilled despite multiple postings across multiple sites. The department has been able to contract with outside service providers to ensure that our students are receiving timely, comprehensive evaluations, and as such, the department has been able to complete all evaluations within the regulatory timelines.

The Student Support Services Department continues to work with building principals to increase inclusive education for all students within the district. Increasing inclusive education may be a long and challenging process, but ultimately this transition can strengthen a school community while simultaneously supporting and addressing the individual needs of each child. As such, effective models of inclusive education not only benefit students with disabilities, but also create an environment in which every student, including those who do not have disabilities, has the opportunity to flourish.

Fall 2024 began the sixth year of Pre-ETS (Pre-Employment Transition Services) programming at Belchertown High School, and the third year through Easter Seals and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC). Pre-ETS services are available to students with disabilities between the ages of 14 and 22 who are enrolled in or receiving services through their local high school. Pre-ETS programming is designed to offer a peer-based approach to support students with five core services: Job Exploration, Work Readiness, Work-based Learning Experiences, Self-Advocacy and Mentoring and Counseling on Post-Secondary Education or Training. Students can access one or all five of these services at a pace commensurate with their abilities.

The Belchertown Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) continues to collaborate with neighboring communities in order to be able to provide a variety of workshops to our families. The first workshop for this school year took place in November 2024.

Finally, the Student Support Services Department continues to work hard to improve and increase communication with families and community members. I look forward to building and maintaining relationships with parents, community members and with the Parent Advisory Council to continue working collaboratively towards improving the best education for all students.

Respectfully Submitted
Rebecca Kudron
Director of Student Support Services

Director of Buildings and Grounds – Annual Report

The Buildings and Grounds department is responsible for the maintenance of five school buildings and two associated buildings, encompassing 478,000 square feet of building space and over 150 acres of land. The Buildings and Grounds Department is committed to maintaining safe, functional, and efficient facilities for the students, staff, and community of Belchertown. Over the past year, the department faced numerous challenges, including addressing aging infrastructure, managing ongoing maintenance needs, and planning for the future of our school buildings.

One of the most significant initiatives of the past year was the proposed Jabish Brook Middle School building project. This ambitious plan was designed to address the outdated infrastructure at Cold Spring School and the current Jabish Brook Middle School by constructing a new, modern middle school facility. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) offered to fund over $50 million of the project, representing a substantial investment in the future of Belchertown's schools. The proposed project also included a plan to realign grade configurations across the district, allowing the consolidation of students into four school buildings instead of five. This approach would not only reduce operational costs but also create opportunities for state-of-the-art, 21st-century learning environments for students.

In the spring of 2024, the project was brought before taxpayers for approval through a town-wide vote. Despite the potential benefits and significant state funding, the proposal was overwhelmingly rejected by voters. The result was a setback for the district, as it forced the town and school district to revisit how to address the pressing needs of aging infrastructure and ensure our facilities can continue to support high-quality education. The failure of the vote underscored the need for continued community engagement and strategic planning. The Buildings and Grounds Department, along with town and district leaders, is now tasked with exploring alternative solutions to fund the necessary building repairs. This includes assessing smaller-scale renovation projects, identifying potential cost-saving measures, and seeking input from the community to align future proposals with taxpayer priorities all while funding any of these initiatives solely at the taxpayers expense with no funding from the state.

Despite the challenges of maintaining aging facilities, the Buildings and Grounds Department successfully completed several projects this year, including routine maintenance and upgrades across all school facilities and new lighting fixtures at 3 school buildings to improve energy efficiency and reduce utility costs. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and diligent efforts of our custodial and maintenance staff who work hard every day to uphold the high standards of safety and cleanliness for the Belchertown students and staff.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Lebeau, FMP, BOC Director of Buildings and Grounds

Information Services Department Town Report

Throughout this last year we have worked towards improving technology in the district. Hardware refreshments and software upgrades have dominated the past year. These efforts will continue into the next year also.

In the spring of this year all of the critical Domain Controllers were upgraded to Windows 2022 version and this should carry the district forward for many years to come.

The new Camera and Door lock systems have been installed and I.T. worked closely with Eric Lebeau, Director of Grounds and Facilities to make sure everything is in place and running correctly.

Throughout the district we have just about completed the process of upgrading all the Windows 10 computers to Windows 11. Windows 10 goes end of life October of 2025.

Lastly, the I.T. Department completed moving the Data Center from Tadgell to the High School, in preparation for shutting Tadgell down.

I would like to thank our Superintendent and Administrative Team for their continued support for the rapidly expanding technological footprint in the district. Without the proper financial and operational support these systems can become problematic. Regular investments in the systems, technology and people who support them is critical to smooth operations across the district.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Scott Karen
Director of Technology for Belchertown Public Schools

Food Service Department Director's Report

The food service department offers breakfast and lunch to students and staff every school day. We are continuously working towards better quality foods and utilizing more local ingredients. We received funds in total of $8,352.50 from Northeast Farm to Schools to purchase local products. We are fortunate to have incredible farmers to support in our community. We continue to purchase beef, maple syrup, honey and veggies from Belchertown. To date we have served over 59,441 breakfasts and 116,071 lunches to the students in our community.

Our school-wide composting, recycling, and donation program is going strong. This has allowed us to keep track of our waste, educate students on the process of waste management, stewardship of the land, and mindfulness in choices they make. Our year's total waste diverted so far is 34,071 pounds from landfills. The donation table has allowed us the opportunity to share with our community and those in need.

We will utilize 100 % of our USDA entitlement funds as well as the DOD fresh funds. Which allows us to provide fresh fruits and vegetables grown in the USA.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to the new and existing staff for providing meals and re-inventing their spaces to accommodate the amount of students we serve daily.

We look forward to continuing to offer nutritious meals to our students and staff, while making improvements where we can.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barrett Grazioso
Food Service Director

School Nursing Department Report

During the 2023-2024 School Year, six full-time School Nurses were employed in the Belchertown Schools. The District continues to receive money from the Comprehensive School Health Service Grant (CSHS); this 10 Year Grant is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) School Health Unit. We are in Year Five of the Grant. The Grant has allowed for a full-time Care Coordinator Attendance Nurse, Special Projects Nurse, Support Staff, and Continuing Education for Nurses. The School District has one Full-Time School Nurse Manager that oversees the Districts School Health Program and manages the CSHS Grant Funds.

The Care Coordinator Attendance Nurse works in collaboration with students, families, school nurses, administrators, health care providers, staff and school counselors to identify and address barriers/obstacles (e.g. inequities, Insurance issues, transportation issues, mental health, acute and chronic medical concerns. Health provider concerns etc...) causing chronic absenteeism. The Districts School Nurses work with students who have acute medical needs, chronic medical needs, behavioral needs, mental health needs, physical, and neurological concerns. In SY 23-24 there were 25,972 Nurse Office Visits. The return to class is an exceptional rate of 94%. School Nurses complete mandatory screenings (e.g. Heights, Weights, BMI's, Postural Screenings, Vision, Hearing and SBIRT) which are required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). School Nurses monitor and maintain every student's School Health Record and Immunization Data to keep students up-to-date and compliant with MDPH Requirements. Annual Surveys are completed for the State regarding Immunizations and Asthma. The School Nurses Epipen Train school bus drivers, coaches, and school staff. In October of 2023 the School District collaborated with Stop and Shop Pharmacy to offer flu vaccines to Students and Staff. Over 70 staff and students were vaccinated.

The District School Nurses are American Heart Association (AHA) HeartSaver Instructors. They train staff members in AHA Heartsaver First Aid, CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed. We have over 150 Staff in the School District including teachers, coaches, intensive needs Paraprofessionals, Administrators, instructional paraprofessionals, cafeteria employees, custodians, and Crisis Team Members that are CPR/AED and or First Aid Certified and Stop the Bleed trained. We have 12 Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs) in the District. Each of the Schools (5) in the District has an AED including one located at the Central Office; seven AEDs are located at Belchertown High School (BHS); four of the AEDs at BHS are for the coaches and the athletic Trainer to transport to the fields for school sporting events. Each AED is inspected 2x/ year by Life Support Systems.

A Prevention Needs Assessment Survey (PNAS) is offered every other year, by the SPIFFY Coalition, to students in Grades 8th, 10th, and 12th. This survey includes questions regarding substance use and Mental Health Symptoms. Some of the questions on the survey also include protective factors such as participation in school, community activities, and opportunities for pro-social involvement. The PNAS results for our district are compared to the county and statewide results. Schools decide what interventions to initiate depending upon the PSNA Survey results. The results for the year 2023 PNAS can be found on link below: https://www.collaborative.org/youth-and-families/healthy-families-community/spiffy/data-research-policy/data/

The school is part of the Drug Free Community Grant (DFC) that has been awarded $125,000.00 per year for five years; we are in year five of the Grant. The School District also has a Healthy and Safer Schools Committee that meets a minimum of four times a year. This committee includes School Administrators, School Committee Members, Nursing, School Counselors, and Community Members.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Keefe M.Ed., BSN, RN, NCSN
School Nurse Manager

Cold Spring School

During the 2024 school year, Cold Spring School provided 200 of the youngest students in the district with a high-quality, developmentally appropriate education in an enriched, safe, and diverse learning environment. We believe in educating the "whole child," emphasizing students' social-emotional development.

Our integrated preschool program includes three- and four-year-olds, which is an ideal stepping stone for kindergarten readiness. Currently, there are three preschool classrooms offering morning and afternoon half-day sessions. The full-day kindergarten program for five and six-year-olds consists of seven classrooms. Twenty-seven of our preschoolers entered kindergarten in the fall, while one hundred and twenty-six kindergartners entered first grade.

Kindergarten educators continue with a strong focus on foundational reading skills by using the SAVVAS MyView literacy program. In addition, teachers implemented a new math curriculum: iReady. Teachers received professional development throughout the year, facilitating the sharing of ideas, teaching practices, assessment and data-informed decision making.

The universal free breakfast and lunch program continued during the 2024 academic year. Kindergarten students enjoy choosing from a hot meal or a bag "grab and go" option. All students received a hot breakfast option should they choose it. As a result, students are able to try and sample different foods and have variety within their breakfast and lunch alternatives.

Family Fun Fridays have continued for our students, staff and families/caregivers. Families and caregivers were invited to their children's classrooms twice during the academic year to participate in various games and activities. This special event continues to be well received. A sincere thank you goes out to the educators who worked hard to provide memorable experiences for our students and their families.

Culminating events at the end of the year included Kindergarten Field Day and the Preschool Moving Up Ceremony. A huge thank you to our generalist, Linda Fuhrmann, for planning and organizing Field Day. Students, families, and staff enjoyed this fun-filled experience. The Preschool Moving Up Ceremony was held for our littlest learners. Families and friends welcomed the opportunity to attend this milestone event. Thank you to preschool educators Holly Ruderman, Tammy Thomas, and Dusty Charbonneau, along with their classroom staff, for making memories for our students and families.

Thank you to the School Council for their continuous effort in working together to improve our school. This council comprises parents, community members, teachers, and administrators and meets throughout the year to develop and discuss topics pertinent to CSS and progress toward the school improvement plan. I appreciate their willingness to discuss various issues openly and share their ideas as we work collaboratively toward continuous improvement.

The PTO continued to support our students and staff, and Kindness Rocks shirts were purchased for all students through their generosity. In addition, the PTO funded several end-of-the-year performances. The students, faculty, and staff appreciate the support of our PTO.

Cold Spring School is a very special place, thanks to our students, educators, staff, and families. Cold Spring School provides our youngest learners with a solid foundation as they embark on their educational journey within the Belchertown Public School district and I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to be a part of this amazing community.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Pelletier, Interim Principal

Swift River Elementary School

Report from the New Principal

As the new principal of Swift River Elementary School since September 2024, I am proud to share this report highlighting the progress we've made and the exciting changes we've implemented this year. It has been an enriching journey thus far, and I am excited to continue working with our staff, students, and community to ensure that Swift River Elementary remains a place where every child is supported, valued, and empowered to succeed.

1. Academic Achievements and Initiatives:

This year, we have focused on ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed academically, and one of the most notable changes has been the adoption of the iReady Math Curriculum. This personalized math program has had a positive impact on student engagement and growth.

☒ New iReady Math Curriculum: In 2024, Swift River introduced the iReady Math Curriculum, a highly interactive, personalized learning tool designed to help students of all levels thrive in math. By combining online learning with traditional teaching methods, iReady helps track student progress in real time, allowing us to target specific areas for improvement. Early results show that students are more engaged, building confidence in their math skills, and achieving growth in key concepts.

☒ Personalized Learning: To support the diverse needs of our students, we have continued using data from ongoing assessments to provide tailored instruction. Small group interventions, one-on-one support, and enrichment programs are helping to ensure that each student progresses at their own pace.

2. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and School Climate:

A strong focus on social-emotional learning has helped foster a positive and inclusive school climate this year.

▪ PeaceBuilders SEL Program: We are proud to be part of the PeaceBuilders SEL Program, which focuses on promoting positive behaviors, empathy, and conflict resolution. Through lessons, activities, and school-wide initiatives, students are learning valuable social-emotional skills that help them navigate challenges, form positive relationships, and contribute to a caring school environment.

▪ Mental Health Support: To further support our students' well-being, we have expanded our school counseling services. Our counselors work closely with students, teachers, and families to provide mental health support, address any concerns, and ensure that every child feels safe and supported.

▪ Positive Behavior Recognition: This year, we have placed an emphasis on recognizing and celebrating positive behavior. Our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) system rewards students for demonstrating kindness, responsibility, and perseverance. These efforts have led to a noticeable improvement in student engagement and school climate.

3. Faculty and Staff Development:

We know that the key to student success lies in the strength and development of our faculty and staff. Throughout this year, we've focused on providing professional growth opportunities and ensuring that our teachers feel supported.

▪ Professional Development: Our staff participated in collaborative planning sessions aimed at refining instructional strategies, integrating technology, and fostering a more inclusive learning environment. In particular, we provided training on using iReady Math effectively to support student growth.

▪ Staff Well-being and Support: We believe that supporting our teachers' well-being is essential to maintaining a positive school culture. This year, we've provided additional resources for teacher wellness and team-building activities to strengthen collaboration and morale.

4. Community Engagement and Parent Involvement:

We understand that a strong partnership between school and home is essential for student success. This year, we've worked to increase communication and involve families more in the school community.

- Weekly Principal's Newsletter: To keep families informed and connected, I began sending out a weekly newsletter. This newsletter includes updates on school events, highlights of student achievements, important reminders, and information about upcoming activities. I've found that this communication has helped parents feel more involved in their child's education and more connected to the school community.

- Parent Engagement: In addition to the weekly newsletter, we hosted several family events throughout the year, including literacy and math nights, where parents could engage in learning activities with their children. These events not only promote academic growth but also foster a sense of community within our school.

- Community Partnerships: We have strengthened our partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and libraries, bringing in additional resources and learning opportunities for our students. These collaborations have allowed us to expand our STEM initiatives, reading programs, and extracurricular activities.

5. Facilities and Infrastructure:

Creating a safe and welcoming environment for learning is critical, and we've continued to improve and enhance our physical spaces.

- Classroom Enhancements: Our classrooms have been equipped with the technology and flexible learning spaces to encourage student collaboration and creativity. The addition of interactive whiteboards, student chrome-books, and other tools has enhanced the learning experience for all students.

- Outdoor Learning Areas: We've made improvements to our outdoor area garden through parent volunteers, providing more space for physical activities and outdoor learning. These spaces are integral to supporting students' physical and social-emotional development.

6. Challenges and Areas for Growth:

While we have made significant progress, we have also encountered some challenges that we are actively working to address.

- Learning Gaps: Like many schools, Swift River has experienced learning gaps due to disruptions from the pandemic. We are committed to addressing these gaps through targeted interventions, tiered supports, and differentiated instruction to ensure that every student catches up and excels.

- Staffing Needs: Although we have a dedicated team, we have faced challenges in recruiting staff for specialized roles, particularly in areas like special education and STEM. We are actively working to address these needs to ensure that our students receive the support they deserve.

7. Goals for the Future:

As we look to the 2025 school year, we have set several goals to continue building on our successes.

- Strengthening iReady Math Implementation: We plan to continue refining and expanding our use of the iReady Math Curriculum, ensuring that every student benefits from personalized instruction and that teachers are fully supported in implementing the program.

- Further Expansion of SEL Programs: We will continue to prioritize social-emotional learning, expanding our PeaceBuilders initiatives and integrating SEL strategies throughout the curriculum to support students' personal growth.

- Enhanced Parent and Community Involvement: We will work to increase parent participation in school events and strengthen our connections with the community to provide even more enriching opportunities for students.

As we move forward, our primary goals for the school are focused on enhancing student achievement, fostering a supportive and inclusive school culture, and strengthening community partnerships. We are committed to ensuring that every student receives a high-quality education by focusing on differentiated instruction, providing targeted support for students who need it most, and challenging all learners to reach their full potential. Additionally, we aim to promote social-emotional learning, helping students build resilience, empathy, and positive relationships. We will continue to cultivate an environment where staff and families work together to support students' academic and personal growth. Through collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to excellence, we strive to create a school where every student feels valued, supported, and prepared for success in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Magda Harrison, Principal
Swift River Elementary School

Chestnut Hill Community School Principal's Report

At Chestnut Hill Community School, we are committed to providing all students with a rigorous learning experience in which they acquire the fundamental skills and social awareness necessary for success today and into the future. We continually look for ways to improve what we do so that our students can be prepared not only for the rest of their educational careers, but throughout life.

In an effort to build a learning community of inclusivity, respect and equity, we joined thousands of schools around the country who are participating in ADL's No Place for Hate Program. The DREAM (Diversity, Respect, Equity, Action, Multiculturalism) Team, which began in late 2023 and consists of both students and staff, has been instrumental in the initial success of this program. The students not only provide feedback and input into the climate of the school, they also help to plan school-wide activities that are aimed at helping to improve our overall climate and ensuring that our school is a welcoming place for everyone.

Developing the social-emotional growth of students is another one of our priorities at Chestnut Hill. We incorporate our RISE values of Respect, Integrity, Safety, and Empathy into all we do. Students participate in activities that reinforce these values throughout the year and they are evidenced in posters and other visual representations as you walk through our classrooms and halls. To reinforce our values, monthly drawings are held to recognize students for their efforts.

We continue to utilize the Botvin LifeSkills Program in grades 4-6. This research-based program helps to increase self-esteem, develop healthy attitudes, and improve students' knowledge of essential life skills - all of which promote healthy and positive personal development and promote social-emotional growth.

We continue to have a strong band and chorus program at Chestnut Hill. In March, "Belchertown Night" with the Springfield Thunderbirds Hockey Club was held. This special family event featured the CHCS Chorus singing the National Anthem. In March, the 6th Grade band and chorus concert was held. In April, the CHCS Jazz band performed and the CHCS chorus groups participated in a district-wide pyramid choral concert which highlighted the choral talents across many grades. In May, the 5th Grade band and 4th & 5th chorus concert was held. In June, the CHCS bands participated in a district-wide band concert. In November, 6th Grade Band and Chorus performed at the Annual Veteran's Day Concert. I would like to recognize the hard work of both Mr. Jason Mosall, band director, and Ms. VanElls, chorus director.

In June we enjoyed many end of year festivities including field days and field trips. Families were invited to attend an outdoor luncheon celebrating the end of elementary school for our sixth grade students.

At the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year, we saw 165 students move up to seventh grade and with the start of the 2024-2025 school year, CHCS welcomed 163 fourth graders for a total of 493 students in grades 4, 5, and 6.

During 2024, there were several staffing changes. Mrs. Leven (Grade 4 Teacher) retired after many years of dedicated service to Belchertown Public Schools. In addition, Mr. Romaer (Library/Media) left the district to pursue their careers elsewhere. At the start of the 2024-2025 school year we welcomed two new staff to join our CHCS family, Ms. Fabin and

Mrs. McClintock.

Throughout the school year, students had the opportunity to participate in enrichments that enhance the base curriculum and provide various learning opportunities that they may not otherwise experience. There were several sessions offering various options for students during their recess block. Some of the activities included Arts & Crafts, Kickball, Magic the Gathering, Mileage Club, and Songwriting, and Jazz Band.

Chestnut Hill Community School was proud to join more than 80 million Americans that took part in the largest drug prevention campaign in the nation: Red Ribbon Week, October 21-25. With support from Belchertown Understanding Obstacles in Youth (BUOY), we promoted the importance of living a healthy life through morning educational and motivational announcements as well as spirit days.

In December, as part of the SAFE (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program, students in grades 5 welcomed members of the Belchertown Fire Department to CHCS for presentations regarding fire prevention and evacuation procedures. We truly value this partnership with our local fire department.

Thank you to the School Council for their continuous effort in working together to improve our school. This council, which is made up of parents, community members, teachers, and administrators meet monthly to develop and discuss topics pertinent to CHCS and progress towards the school improvement plan. I appreciate their willingness to have open discussions about various topics and for sharing their ideas as we work collaboratively towards continuous improvement.

The PTO continues to be a tremendous support for our entire school community. From organizing school events and gifts for teachers to supplementing field trips, we could not succeed without their generous support. My sincere thanks goes to the entire PTO as well as all those who support the PTO for making this possible!

Finally, I would like to recognize the outstanding dedication of our entire faculty and staff who, on a daily basis, work to ensure that the experiences of our students are engaging, motivating, and promote lifelong learning. It is my honor and privilege to work with you each day. I also want to extend my appreciation to the entire CHCS community for their continued support. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. Jennifer Champagne, Principal
Chestnut Hill Community School

Jabish Brook Middle School (JBMS) Principal's Report

Jabish Brook Middle School serves the middle school population of approximately 350 seventh and eighth grade students in Belchertown. Two grades are served in a building originally designed as a junior-senior high school over 60 years ago. Our annual challenge is to successfully transition our students from the intermediate level of instruction to the secondary level, and in two short years, prepare our students for the demands and challenges of the high school environment.

Jabish Brook continued efforts against prejudice and hate, and was formally endorsed by the Anti-Defamation League as a "No Place for Hate" school as a result of the comprehensive advisory lessons conducted throughout the school year. These efforts were a part of our local response to the larger social issue of increases in racial, ethnic and religious discrimination that have been occurring throughout the nation, and required an immediate and continued response to ensure that everyone feels safe and free to learn in a safe school environment.

It is through the cooperative effort of our school community that JBMS works to provide a positive and productive learning environment for our community. I am indebted to our professional faculty and staff for their dedication and commitment to this mission, and to our parents, guardians, students and families for their support. I am very proud to be part of a community that has worked so hard cooperatively for the benefit of our students.

The impacts to our current economic environment, however, we also recognized. It was the majority vote of our community to not seek state reimbursement on a new middle school building to replace the existing Jabish Brook Middle School. To that end, it was also decided that budgetary constraints and declining student enrollment required the reduction of 6.6 teaching positions at the middle school level, as part of district reductions. I look forward to a cooperative effort to pursue capital improvements, necessary repairs to this building and to develop creative ways to address mandated educational services while maintaining fiscal responsibility for our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Thomas K. Ruscio, Principal
Jabish Brook Middle School

High School (BHS) Principal's Report

This past year at Belchertown High School has been a testament to the power of responsibility, respect, and relationships in shaping a thriving school community. Through reflection, our students and educators have embraced the rigor of academic and extracurricular challenges, demonstrating remarkable resilience. Together, we have cultivated our Nest where growth, achievement, and connection are celebrated, setting the stage for even greater success in the years to come. The Belchertown High School educational community continues to foster academic excellence and responsible citizenship in a positive, safe, and respectful environment in order to develop productive contributors to a diverse and democratic society.

In January, Olivia Bailey, Tadan Baker, Alyssa Courchesne, Chanler Finlay, Charlie Fisher, Alex Frost, Graham Guardenfield, Kasey Gibbons, Derek Gould, Ryan Gould, Georgia Greenough

Oliver Hellyar, Miles McNamara, Brielle Murray, Ty O'Donnell, Brooke Stelmokas, Ori Sussman, Priscilla Pootolal, Brycen Vann, Megan Watts performed in the Western District Senior Music Festival.

In February, our Boys' Swim Team earned a fourth place finish in the State Tournament! Luke Giguere placed second in the 100-Yard Backstroke and third in the 100-Yard Freestyle. The 200-Yard Medley Relay team of Luke Giguere, Ryan Gould, James Zlogar and Ryan Shea also placed third. The team also placed third in the 400-Yard Freestyle Relay.

In March, we recognized our Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams and our Hockey Team for their participation in the MIAA Tournament! Also our Student Council and Ms. Vaz hosted the successful Volleyball Lock-In! It was a wonderful evening filled with fun, food, and volleyball for over two hundred students and chaperones. Special thanks to our chaperones: Ms. Vaz, Ms. Letzeisen, Mr. Koziol, Mr. Cowles, Ms. Cofone, Ms. Reynolds, Ms. Waldron, Ms. Colon-Vega, Ms. Materka, Ms. Leighton, Ms. Lak Lavoie, Ms. Captein, Ms. Audette, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Lavoie, Ms. Holesovsky, Mr. Lavoie, Mr. Mogavero, Mr. Cofone, Ms. Grant Bergeron, Mr. Bergeron, Mr. Simao, Ms. Philpott, Mr. Dubey, Ms. Dubey, Ms. Ribeiro, Mr. Murray, Mr. Dorman, Ms. Gould, Ms. Scoon, Ms. Frederick, Ms. Foisy, Ms. Goodrich, Ms. Bansal, Mr. Meehan, Ms. Brunetti, and Ms. Marino!

In May and June, we celebrated the Class of 2024. On Tuesday, June 4th, after graduation rehearsal, our Seniors took part in the Senior Walk outside of Swift River Elementary School and Chestnut Hill Community School where they were cheered on by their former educators and future Orioles!

Also, on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 the Senior Awards Ceremony took place in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium. Over $75,000 in scholarships was presented to our seniors during the awards ceremony. The awarding of these scholarships would not be possible without the generosity of the many groups and organizations in the community – a special thank you to them for assisting our bright and talented students in their pursuit of educational, work, and military opportunities.

On Thursday, June 6, 2024, the Class of 2024 graduated students from Belchertown High School. The ceremony was held in the high school gymnasium with family, friends, and educators in attendance celebrating the accomplishments of the class. Speeches were given by Mr. Rainer Kristensen, valedictorian of the class, Ms. Zoe Patten, salutatorian of the class, and Ms. Ellie Gelinas, president of the Class of 2024.

On Thursday, June 13, 2024, 170 undergraduate scholars received 271 awards at Undergraduate Awards Night. These students not only showed a great commitment to their academic work but they also showed tremendous dedication and enthusiasm to our Nest and the community outside of our Nest. These are some pretty incredible students who have a great deal going on in their lives but continue to make their education a top priority. The contributions that they have made in so many different areas also need to be acknowledged – their efforts in the Helping Hands Club, Humanities Club, Social Justice Book Club, with the yearbook, their contributions to the BHS Band, Choral, and Drama Programs, , Biology and Chemistry Club, Cooking Club, Spanish Club, Anime Club, Saving Endangered Animals Club, Games Club, Coding Club, Crochet Club, BHS Buddies, As Schools Match Wits, their contributions to our athletic program, their leadership on our Student Council and as class officers, their talent as writers and artists, the ways they have persevered and overcome obstacles in their lives. They display academic excellence, they respect and value themselves, their school environment, and the diversity of our Nest. Thanks to our students for contributing to a positive school climate and working cooperatively to achieve group goals or resolve conflicts. Thanks to our students for participating in activities that encourage leadership and service to our school and community and understanding and exercising their rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democratic and multicultural society. Thank you to our students for making our Nest a safe place where all feel valued and validated.

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 was the last day of the 2023 - 2024 school year. As we closed out the 2023 - 2024 school year, our educators and students were thanked for their hard work, dedication, and the vibrant spirit they brought to our Nest! The year was truly special, filled with unique experiences and memorable moments. They soared like Orioles, bright and full of energy, making our Nest a place of teaching, learning, growth, and joy.

On Tuesday, August 20, 2024, we welcomed the Class of 2028 and New Students to the Nest! Our student orientation volunteers provided our new students with an amazing introduction to the Nest!

On Wednesday, August 28th, the orange carpet was rolled out as we welcomed our educators and the Classes of 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028 back into the Nest! During the opening convocation, our students learned about Five Rings/Five Things and how we could learn from the Summer Olympics about family, flexibility, foresight, focus, and fortitude:

Family is at the heart of everything we do. Our nest is not just a place of learning; it's a second home where students, parents, caregivers, educators, and education support personnel come together to support one another. We are committed to fostering an environment where every student feels safe, valued, and validated

Flexibility is essential in today's rapidly changing world. We understand that each student's path to success is unique, and we are dedicated to providing the resources and support needed to adapt to their individual needs and aspirations. Our programs are designed to be responsive, allowing us to meet students where they are and help them grow.

Foresight allows us to look beyond the present and prepare our students for the future. We are committed to equipping them with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in an ever-evolving world. By anticipating challenges and opportunities, we aim to ensure that our students are not only ready for tomorrow but are also confident in leading the way.

Focus is key to achieving excellence. Whether it's in academics, arts, athletics, or any other pursuit, we encourage our students to set goals, work hard, and stay dedicated to their passions. Our teachers and staff are here to guide and inspire them every step of the way.

Fortitude is what will carry us through the challenges ahead. There will be obstacles, but with determination and resilience, our students will overcome them. We believe in the strength of our community and the perseverance of each individual. Together, we will face challenges head-on and emerge stronger.

Students were reminded that as we move forward into this school year, to remember that we are all in this together, as one family, with the flexibility to adapt, the foresight to plan, the focus to excel, and the fortitude to succeed.

A Veterans' Day Assembly was held in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium on Friday, November 8, 2024. Special thanks to Ms. Vaz and Student Council for organizing the ceremony! Thanks to Ms. Sylvestre for introducing Lieutenant Colonel Donald Moran retired United States Air Force Reserves. Thanks to Lieutenant

Colonel Moran for speaking and sharing his story and message. Thanks to Staff Sergeant George Nieves for posting the colors. Thanks to Mr. Guerraz and our Choir for their beautiful voices! Thanks to Mr. Caster and our Band for their amazing sound! Thanks to Jackson Hennessy and Evan Perkins for playing Taps so well during our solemn ceremony. And thanks to our students for the respect they showed during this solemn ceremony.

Our Fall athletic season was very successful. Our Boys' Cross Country Team, Field Hockey Team, Girls' Volleyball Team, Girls' Soccer Team and Boys' Soccer Team all qualified for the MIAA State Tournament. Congratulations to all of our Fall student- athletes, coaches, caregivers, and fans on a great fall season! Thanks to Mr. McNeill, Ms. McLean, and Ms. Phillips for all of their efforts. Special thanks to our Seniors for their contributions to our fall athletic program.

A very special thank you to Ms. Teixeria, Ms. McNeill, and Ms. Folli for organizing the Alumni Career Fair in November. It was so good to hear from our graduates as they shared their experiences with our juniors who were great listeners and participants! It was an incredible morning with all of our Orioles! for sharing their school and work experiences.

The following members of the Class of 2024 were recognized as John and Abigail Scholarship recipients based on their performance on the high school MCAS English Language Arts and Mathematics tests by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.. Based on their high academic achievement they have qualified to receive a four year scholarship upon acceptance to a Massachusetts public institution of higher education including the four undergraduate campuses of the University of Massachusetts, all nine state universities and all fifteen community colleges - Kamilah Acosta-Morales, Alexia Albu, Alexandra Barabolkin, Jack Bergeron, Meera Berryhill, Tyler Black, Samantha Causeway, Liam Chien, Levi Daigle, Jillian DeBarge, Katherine Dorman, Zachary Dragon. Caleb Gloster, Trent Harper, Aliza Hayward, Lucia Hellyar, Liam Howard, Gabriel Ibekilo, Nicholas Ibekilo, Dylan Laramee, Chloe LaRoche, Nicholas LaRock, Benjamin Les, Jack Mandeville, Andrew Martin, Rocco Meausky, Jack Meyers, Joshua Misiaszek, Allison Morris, Colin Mullen, Zachary Mullen, Vavara Sas, Liam Spraggon, Addison Sullivan, Mikayla Valley, Brycen Vann, Stephanie Wenzel, George Wheeler, Pierre Willems, Owen Wojtczak, Joseph Yoon, Emma Yurkunas.

Belchertown High School is the very special place it is because of our students, our educators, and our families! Our Nest is one in which all of our Orioles feel safe, valued, and validated!

I could not be more proud of our students and educators for the relationships that have been fostered and maintained and the respect, responsibility, reflection, and resilience that continues to be shown as outstanding teaching and learning complete with rigor takes place every day in our Nest!

Respectfully submitted,
Christine M. Vigneux
Belchertown High School Principal

PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Introduction

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District Committee, together with Superintendent Eric Duda, is pleased to present this annual report to the citizens of the nine-town district. The report highlights key achievements, updates, and the fiscal health of the school district for the year 2024.

FY24 Budget Overview:

In 2024, the Pathfinder Regional School Committee approved a final FY25 budget of $16,649,387, representing a 4.78% increase over the FY23 budget. This budget was unanimously approved by all nine towns within the district during their respective town meetings and town council meetings, in accordance with the regional school budget statute. The budget was formulated based on enrollment figures from October 1, 2023.

Pathfinder Tech continues to prioritize fiscal responsibility, employing cost reduction strategies such as health insurance adjustments, grant acquisition, utility net metering contracts, and internal infrastructure projects. These efforts ensure that Pathfinder Tech remains financially sustainable while providing high-quality technical education to our students.

Grants Funding:

In 2024, Pathfinder Tech received several significant grants, which contributed to expanding educational opportunities:

» CSHS & SBHE Grants: Supported nursing and counseling staff for student mental health.

» Instructional Coaching: Enabled the implementation of data-driven teaching strategies.

» Perkins Equipment Grant: Enhanced culinary arts training facilities.

» Skills Capital Grant: The school received $1.25 million in funding for electrical and horticulture program upgrades (to be used in 2025 and 2026).

These grants have helped Pathfinder Tech improve the student experience and expand its offerings to meet evolving community needs.

Community Outreach and Admissions:

The Community Outreach and Admissions department has seen continued success in the past year, not only managing student enrollment but also overseeing community engagement, communication, event planning, and media relations.

» Enrollment: As of October 1, 2024, the school enrolled 660 students, marking an increase from the previous year. Total applications also grew, reflecting a sustained demand for career and technical education.

» Summer Bridge Program: The department hosted 180 new students for orientation in July and August, offering icebreaker activities, school tours, placement tests, and team-building exercises, including the signing of Class of 2028 t-shirts.

» Career Night: Pathfinder Tech hosted a record-breaking Career Night (Open House) in December with over 1,100 attendees, showcasing our diverse academic, technical programs, and extracurricular offerings.

» Community Engagement: Pathfinder Tech continued its presence at the Belchertown Fair, where Cosmetology students provided free face painting and manicures. Students and faculty participated in the Saturday morning parade. The department also maintained active engagement via social media, sharing updates on events, student achievements, and school highlights.

Cooperative Education and Technical Program Highlights:

Pathfinder Tech's Cooperative Education program continues to provide invaluable real-world experience to students, benefiting both the local workforce and community members. Key highlights include:

» 89 student placements in various local businesses and organizations.

» 23 students employed through the WIOA program.

In 2024, more than 600 work requests were received from municipalities and residents within the district, leading to significant savings for local taxpayers:

» Automotive Technology: Performed work on 243 vehicles, saving over $105,000.

» Carpentry: Completed projects saving the community approximately $68,000.

» Collision Repair: Saved $30,000 on 48 vehicles.

» Cosmetology: Generated $2,300 in revenue and supported senior center spa days.

» Perso Restaurant: Achieved $51,000 in sales, catering for various community events, including a meal for over 60 veterans.

» Electrical: Saved $108,000 for municipalities and $20,000 for residents.

» Horticulture: Contributed to local town projects and annual plant sales, supporting the community with valued services.

» Plumbing & Pipefitting: Saved $10,500 for residential clients and contributed to municipal projects.

» Programming and Web Development: Served 550 help-desk tickets and worked on web design projects for external clients.

Select Student Achievements:

Pathfinder Tech students continue to excel in regional and state-level competitions, showcasing their talent and skills across various technical and vocational fields.

» Business Technology: Five students placed in the top five at the Massachusetts Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference.

» SkillsUSA: Students won 22 medals at the District V Leadership Conference, with several securing spots at the State Conference.

» FRC Robotics: The team ranked 30th out of 185 teams in the New England District and won the prestigious Gracious Professionalism Award.

» Health Assisting: Eleven students passed the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) exam, and the team earned bronze medals at the SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference.

Other notable accomplishments include students earning SolidWorks Expert certifications, and the Horticulture program winning third place at the FFA landscape competition at the Eastern States Exposition.

Student Services:

The Student Services Department supports students' diverse needs, including Special Education, Mental Health/Social Emotional Learning (SEL), and English Learners programs.

» Individualized Education Plans (IEPs): The department managed approximately 160 IEPs and implemented targeted interventions for students.

» Social-Emotional Learning: The ORI Learning curriculum was implemented for all 9th graders, with a Tiered Support System addressing students' mental health and emotional needs.

» New Comfort Animal: Pathfinder Tech introduced Scout, an English Cream Retriever, to provide emotional support for students and staff.

Curriculum and Professional Development:

Curriculum development and professional growth continue to be focal points at Pathfinder Tech. Highlights include:

» Data-Driven Interventions: Extra help sessions were introduced during school vacations to support students struggling with coursework.

» Instructional Coaching: The school moved towards a more traditional instructional coaching model in the 2024-2025 school year, focusing on teacher support and professional development.

» IXL Integration: The online platform IXL was integrated into the curriculum for grades 9-12 to reinforce academic skills.

» Professional Development: Monthly PD sessions were offered to staff, with focus areas ranging from best practices to peer-led learning.

Adult Continuing Education:

The Adult Continuing Education program at Pathfinder Tech proudly marked its second year of course offerings with successful Electrical and Plumbing programs. These initiatives, funded through a CTI grant from Commonwealth Corporation, are in direct alignment with our mission to engage and empower the community by providing valuable educational opportunities.

Both the Electrical and Plumbing programs concluded in June 2024, with graduates earning multiple industry-recognized credentials and acquiring a wide range of trade skills, significantly enhancing their employability in their respective fields. Many graduates secured relevant employment, demonstrating their strong drive for personal and professional growth.

We continue to collaborate closely with the MassHire Springfield Career Center and the Hampden County Workforce to ensure these programs meet the evolving needs of our community.

In 2024, several new offerings were introduced, and we are committed to expanding our course catalog with additional programs tailored to address the specific needs and demands of our community.

Conclusion:

As Pathfinder Tech celebrates its 52nd year of excellence in career and technical education, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our legislative partners, town officials, and all who continue to support our mission. Together, we are empowering the next generation of skilled professionals.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Quink (Hardwick), Chair
David Droz (Palmer), Vice Chair
Lorraine F. Alves (Belchertown), Secretary
Robert Lavoie (Palmer)
Francesco Dell'Olio (Belchertown)
R. Keith Valley (Monson)
April Judicki (Granby)
Martin Goulet (New Braintree)
Richard Olson III (Oakham)
Marie Barbara Ray (Ware)
Richard Fly (Ware)
John Nason (Warren)
Emerson Boronski, Student Member (Ware)
Eric Duda, Superintendent-Director

STATE SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

This is a summary of the State School Buildings and Grounds Committee activity for 2024.

The Committee elected Richard A. Kowal, a new member of the group, as Chairman as we designated and reestablished a formal meeting standard moving forward.

Members, besides the Chairman, consist of Kirk Stephens, BDIC, Vice Chairman, Kristin Davis, Secretary, Heidi Dollard, Member, Susan Tyler, Member and Jennifer Turner, Select Board Liaison. All members are voting members.\

Our purpose is to identify and review the buildings and property on the former Belchertown State School for the possibility of re-development of commercial buildings or alternative uses for the property. To date our focus has been on the former Tadgell School with a pending feasibility study for the building. The study is being funded through a rural development grant in the amount of $215,000 which was awarded to Belchertown in October 2024. We are currently seeking proposals from qualified firms to conduct the feasibility report with an expected completion date of April 4, 2025.

After the feasibility study is completed, the Committee is prepared to interact with other committees and Town Personnel to find a qualified developer for the property.

Our Committee will continue to review available property of the former Belchertown State School to be re-developed and returned to the active roles of the Town.

VETERANS' GRAVES

For the year 2024, all of Belchertown's Veteran's Graves were flagged just prior to Memorial Day. A special thank you is extended to members of American Legion Post 239 for their flagging assistance at Mt Hope cemetery, as well as a thank you to Local VFW Post 8428 for their flagging assistance at South cemetery.

Help was also provided by a smaller group of Belchertown volunteers who supported flagging at Lake Vale, Hillcrest, Rural and Dwight Cemeteries. Additional flagging was complied with for Veteran's Day on the Town Common with support from the Veterans' Services Agent.

This year I applied for and received a historic preservation grant from the Belchertown CPA Committee. The money was used for gravestone restoration at South cemetery to restore twenty-two graves stones.

Respectfully submitted,
Vincent Viglione, Veteran's Graves Officer
Kathleen M. Wood, Assistant Veteran's Graves Officer

VETERANS' SERVICE AGENT

The department's new physical address, 4C Berkshire Avenue, has been a positive change with many more walk-in clients. The office continued its flexibility in hours and home visits to meet the needs of clients as well as the needs in the community. This year again provided increased opportunities in providing Local, Private, State and Federal benefits to Veterans and their families due to additional outreach, training and collaborations. The Veterans' Advisory Board appreciatively continued to provide valuable assistance to my office concerning Veterans' issues and planned Veteran activities in our Town. Additionally, the office continued to partner with local organizations and businesses to provide food and toiletries as well as holiday meals in November and December. I also was able to acquire and disseminate numerous winter coats and socks, gloves, scarves, slippers and hats. I was happily able to again facilitate multiple donors in town anonymously providing local Veterans with generous grocery gift cards through the year as well. The small pantry outside my office for Veterans and their families continues to remain stocked due to generous donations from the community. The pantry is well attended and feedback has been very positive. This year I re-certified my VA federal accreditation and continue to maintain my required trainings to legally submit VA benefits claims for our community's Veterans and their families.

Future plans for 2025 would include: 1) Continue to network resources for our Veterans' and their families in times of crisis or unforeseen circumstances to include fuel resources, meals and alternate income resources; 2) Additional public outreach to share information and availability regarding Veteran topics concerning VA, State benefits, food security and elder care issues; and, 3) Continuing to further streamline the process to file VA paperwork. My office will continue to work with Belchertown residents, organizations, and programs that support our Veterans and their families.

The VFW and my office are still actively accepting DD 214s to place qualified names on the Middle East War Memorial.

Please contact my office at 323-0409 if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Charly N. Oliva, MSW
Veterans' Agent

VETERANS' SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

During 2024, the Veterans' Services Advisory Board continued to be integral in assisting my office in efficiently planning various Belchertown Veterans' ceremonies safely and honorably. In collaboration with the VSAB, my office was able to hold the Veterans' Day Ceremony as well as the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony in person again- safely and proficiently. Also, the VSAB continued to assist me with informing local Veterans' of available State and/or Federal veteran programs while maintaining safe distances and healthy protocols.

I wish to thank the Veterans and Select Board Members who serve on the Veterans' Services Advisory Board; your service to the Belchertown Veterans and my office is greatly appreciated. Additionally, I'd like to thank the Town Manager, Select Board and Advisory Board for their hard work in supporting my office through the year and its many challenges.

Please contact my office at 323-0409 if you have any questions or concerns for the Veterans' Services Advisory Board.

Respectfully submitted,
Charly N. Oliva, MSW
Veterans' Agent

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In the past year, the Board of Appeals received one application for Variance and two Special Permit applications. The Board approved the variance, and both special permits.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jennifer Sharrow, Chair Person
Brian Gibbons, Vice Chair
Wayne Versace, Member
Dino Brunetti, Associate Member
Russell Sabadosa, Associate Member
Darlene Willey Sliwa, Associate Member

FINANCIAL REPORTS

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL TYPES, FUNDS, AND ACCOUNT GROUPS

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Combined Balance Sheet - All Types, Funds, and Account Groups
for the Period Ended June 30, 2024

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Funds	Fiduciary Trust Funds & Agency	Long Term Debt	Totals (Memo Only)
ASSETS							
Cash	6,323,260.25	8,281,941.95	995,021.01	892,259.81	4,159,332.51		20,651,815.53
Petty Cash Advance	100.00						100.00
Accounts Receivable:							
Property Taxes	585,277.00						585,277.00
Chapter 61	0.00						0.00
Excise Taxes	332,966.09						332,966.09
Tax Liens	275,013.10			15,672.06			290,685.16
Special Assessments	0.00			1,955,313.21			1,955,313.21
Departmental	823,519.19			446,154.80			1,269,673.99
Less Allow. for Uncollectible	(247,279.78)						(247,279.78)
Tax Foreclosures	53,543.90						53,543.90
Lieu Taxes	0.00						0.00
CPA/Stormwtr Surcharge Receivable		6,271.84		46,455.91			52,727.75
Due From Other Governments	151,840.59	24,900.74					176,741.33
Amt. To be Provided-Notes Paya	0.00	62,922.00	990,000.00				1,052,922.00
Amt. To be Provided-Pmt of Debt						6,806,534.75	6,806,534.75
Amt. To be Prov.-Comp. Absenc						368,670.97	368,670.97
Total Assets	8,298,240.34	8,376,036.53	1,985,021.01	3,355,855.79	4,159,332.51	7,175,205.72	33,349,691.90
LIABILITIES							
Warrants Payable	917,486.54	609,053.66	85,378.15	106,185.68	12,043.02		1,730,147.05
Employee Withholdings	1,098,614.08						1,098,614.08
Deferred Revenue:							
Property Taxes	337,997.22						337,997.22
Chapter 61	0.00						0.00
Excise Taxes	332,966.09						332,966.09

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Combined Balance Sheet - All Types, Funds, and Account Groups
for the Period Ended June 30, 2024

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise Funds	Fiduciary Trust Funds & Agency	Long Term Debt	Totals (Memo Only)
Tax Liens	275,013.10			15,672.06			290,685.16
Deferred taxes	56,192.56			1,955,313.21			2,011,505.77
Lieu Taxes	0.00						0.00
Departmental	823,519.19			446,154.80			1,269,673.99
Tax Foreclosures	53,543.90						53,543.90
CPA/Stormwtr Surcharge Receivable		5,665.59		46,455.91			52,121.50
Government Receivable	151,840.59	24,900.74					176,741.33
Grant Receivable							0.00
Bond Anticipation Notes Payable		62,922.00	990,000.00				1,052,922.00
Prepaid property taxes/CPA	0.00	606.25					
Unclaimed Checks	6,045.75						6,045.75
Excess on Land of Low Value	(6,536.80)						(6,536.80)
Bond Indebtedness						6,806,534.75	6,806,534.75
Compensated Absences						368,670.97	368,670.97
Total Liabilities	4,046,682.22	703,148.24	1,075,378.15	2,569,781.66	12,043.02	7,175,205.72	15,582,239.01
FUND EQUITY							
Reserve for Encumbrances	633,992.70	0.00		19,669.92			653,662.62
Reserve for Expenditures	1,568,697.00	313,230.49		243,524.00			2,125,451.49
Unreserved Fund Balance	2,048,868.42						2,048,868.42
Reserved Fund Balance		7,339,239.92	909,642.86	522,880.21	4,147,289.49		12,919,052.48
Title V Septic System Loan		20,417.88					20,417.88
Total Fund Equity	4,251,558.12	7,672,888.29	909,642.86	786,074.13	4,147,289.49	0.00	17,767,452.89
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	8,298,240.34	8,376,036.53	1,985,021.01	3,355,855.79	4,159,332.51	7,175,205.72	33,349,691.90
	4,251,558.12	7,672,888.29	909,642.86	786,074.13	4,147,289.49	0.00	17,767,452.89

GENERAL FUND BALANCE SHEET

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
General Fund Balance Sheet
June 30, 2024

ASSETS		
Cash		6,323,260.25
Petty Cash Advance		100.00
Accounts Receivable:		
Property Taxes	585,277.00	
Chapter 61	0.00	
Excise Taxes	332,966.09	
Tax Liens	275,013.10	
Lieu Taxes	0.00	
Departmental	823,519.19	
Governmental Receivable-Veterans:	151,840.59	
Less Allowance for Uncollectible	(247,279.78)	
		1,921,336.19
Due from Other Governments		0.00
Amount to be Provided for Notes Payable		0.00
Tax Foreclosure		53,543.90
Total Assets		8,298,240.34
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Warrants Payable		917,486.54
Employee Withholdings		1,098,614.08
Deferred Revenue:		
Property Taxes	337,997.22	
Deferred Taxes	56,192.56	
Chapter 61	0.00	
Excise Taxes	332,966.09	
Tax Liens	275,013.10	
Lieu Taxes	0.00	
Departmental	823,519.19	
Governmental Receivable-Veterans:	151,840.59	
Tax Foreclosures	53,543.90	
		2,031,072.65
BANS Payable		0.00
Excess on Land of Low Value		(6,536.80)
Unclaimed Checks		6,045.75
Total Liabilities		4,046,682.22
FUND EQUITY		
Reserve for Expenditures		1,568,697.00
Reserve for Encumbrances		633,992.70
Unreserved Fund Balance		2,048,868.42
Total Fund Equity		4,251,558.12
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity		8,298,240.34

SPECIAL REVENUE - COMBINING BALANCE SHEET

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Special Revenue - Combining Balance Sheet
June 30, 2024

			GRANTS			School		Totals
	CPA	Highways	Federal	State	School Lunch	Revolvings	Departmental	(Memo Only)
ASSETS								
Cash	1,529,492.92	1,334.70	501,610.79	271,348.51	1,135,100.37	198,034.27	4,645,020.39	8,281,941.95
Petty Cash Advance								0.00
Due From Commonwealth		24,900.74						24,900.74
Amt to be Provided-Notes Payable	62,922.00							62,922.00
Surcharge Receivable (thru FY24)	6,271.84							6,271.84
Due from Federal Government								0.00
Total Assets	1,598,686.76	26,235.44	501,610.79	271,348.51	1,135,100.37	198,034.27	4,645,020.39	8,376,036.53
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY								
Liabilities:								
Warrants Payable	0.00	139,860.00	249,948.41	87,465.76	1,874.86	432.40	129,472.23	609,053.66
Deferred Rev - Gov't Receivable		24,900.74					0.00	24,900.74
Employee Withholdings								0.00
Bond Anticipation Note	62,922.00							62,922.00
Deferred Rev - Surcharge Rec'bl	5,665.59							5,665.59
Early pmt of '25 CPA Surcharge	606.25							606.25
Deferred Rev - Grant Receivable								0.00
Total Liabilities	69,193.84	164,760.74	249,948.41	87,465.76	1,874.86	432.40	129,472.23	703,148.24
Fund Equity:								
Desig. for Subs Years Expense	1,216,262.43	(138,525.30)	251,662.38	183,882.75	1,133,225.51	197,601.87	4,495,130.28	7,339,239.92
Reserve for Open Space	42,715.37							42,715.37
Reserve for Historic Resources	107,392.82							107,392.82
Reserve for Community Housing	163,122.30							163,122.30
Reserve for Encumbrance								0.00
Title V Septic System Loan							20,417.88	20,417.88
Total Fund Equity	1,529,492.92	(138,525.30)	251,662.38	183,882.75	1,133,225.51	197,601.87	4,515,548.16	7,672,888.29
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	1,598,686.76	26,235.44	501,610.79	271,348.51	1,135,100.37	198,034.27	4,645,020.39	8,376,036.53

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Capital Projects Fund
Combined Balance Sheet
June 30, 2024

	JBMS School Building Constr.	Capital Proj. /Equipment	Sewer upgrades	Totals (Memo. Only)
ASSETS				
Cash	568,937.50	355,673.86	70,409.65	995,021.01
WPAT Receivable			0.00	0.00
U.S.D.A. Grant Receivable			0.00	0.00
Amt. To be Prov. For Notes Pay.	990,000.00			990,000.00
Total Assets	1,558,937.50	355,673.86	70,409.65	1,985,021.01
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY				
Liabilities:				
Warrants Payable	85,378.15	0.00	0.00	85,378.15
Deferred Rev.-WPAT Rec'ble				0.00
Deferred Rev.-USDA Grant				0.00
Bond Anticipation Note	990,000.00			990,000.00
Grant Anticipation Note Payable				0.00
Total Liabilities	1,075,378.15	0.00	0.00	1,075,378.15
Fund Equity:				
Reserved Fund Balance	483,559.35	355,673.86	70,409.65	909,642.86
Total Fund Equity	483,559.35	355,673.86	70,409.65	909,642.86
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	1,558,937.50	355,673.86	70,409.65	1,985,021.01

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Enterprise Funds - Combining Balance Sheet
June 30, 2024

	Sewer	Landfill	Stormwater	Totals (Memo. Only)
ASSETS				
Cash	481,854.54	163,775.75	246,629.52	892,259.81
Accounts Receivable:				
Sewer User Fees	446,154.80			446,154.80
Assessments	1,955,313.21			1,955,313.21
Tax Liens - enterprise	15,365.20		306.86	15,672.06
Stormwater Utility Fee			46,455.91	46,455.91
Total Assets	2,898,687.75	163,775.75	293,392.29	3,355,855.79
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY				
Liabilities:				
Warrants Payable	60,107.93	16,783.52	29,294.23	106,185.68
Deferred Revenue:				
Sewer User Fees	446,154.80			446,154.80
Assessments	1,955,313.21			1,955,313.21
Tax Liens	15,365.20		306.86	15,672.06
Stormwater			46,455.91	46,455.91
Total Liabilities	2,476,941.14	16,783.52	76,057.00	2,569,781.66
Fund Equity:				
Reserved for Expenditure	104,262.00	56,911.00	82,351.00	243,524.00
Reserved for Encumbrance	19,669.92	0.00	0.00	19,669.92
Retained Earnings	297,814.69	90,081.23	134,984.29	522,880.21
Total Fund Equity	421,746.61	146,992.23	217,335.29	786,074.13
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	2,898,687.75	163,775.75	293,392.29	3,355,855.79

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Fiduciary Funds
Combining Balance Sheet
June 30, 2024

	Expendable Trust Funds	Non-Expendable Trust Funds	Agency Funds	Totals (Memo. Only)
ASSETS				
Cash	3,189,700.47	741,147.83	228,484.21	4,159,332.51
Total Assets	3,189,700.47	741,147.83	228,484.21	4,159,332.51
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY				
Liabilities:				
Warrants Payable	0.00		12,043.02	12,043.02
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00	12,043.02	12,043.02
Fund Equity:				
Fund Balances:				
Reserved	3,189,700.47	741,147.83	216,441.19	4,147,289.49
Total Fund Equity	3,189,700.47	741,147.83	216,441.19	4,147,289.49
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	3,189,700.47	741,147.83	228,484.21	4,159,332.51

LONG TERM DEBT GROUP

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Long Term Debt Group
Balance Sheet
June 30, 2024

	Land-Everett Fuller, Toppin	Capital Projects 08	Sewer Jackson St. MWPAT	Sewer Howard St. MWPAT	Energy Savings Project	Route 181 Sewer Project	BSS Roadway	Patrick Center	Capital FY19 & 20	Unfunded Vacation Leave	Unfunded Sick Leave	Totals (Memo. Only)
ASSETS												
Amt to be Provided for payment of debt	15,000.00	80,000.00	376,133.75	210,401.00	660,000.00	120,000.00	655,000.00	45,000.00	4,645,000.00			6,806,534.75
Amt to be Provided for compensated absences										45,130.75	323,540.22	368,670.97
Total Assets	15,000.00	80,000.00	376,133.75	210,401.00	660,000.00	120,000.00	655,000.00	45,000.00	4,645,000.00	45,130.75	323,540.22	7,175,205.72
LIABILITIES												
Bond Indebtedness	15,000.00	80,000.00	376,133.75	210,401.00	660,000.00	120,000.00	655,000.00	45,000.00	4,645,000.00			6,806,534.75
Compensated Absences										45,130.75	323,540.22	368,670.97
Total Liabilities	15,000.00	80,000.00	376,133.75	210,401.00	660,000.00	120,000.00	655,000.00	45,000.00	4,645,000.00	45,130.75	323,540.22	7,175,205.72

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance for Period Ended June 30, 2024

	GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS			ENTERPRISE FUNDS			FIDUCIARY TYPE (TRUSTS)		TOTALS
	General Fund	Special Rev.	Capital Funds	Sewer	Landfill	Stormwater	Expendable	Non-Expendable	(Memo. Only)
Revenue:									
Taxes	32,946,482.08								32,946,482.08
State Receipts	16,782,379.67								16,782,379.67
Excise Taxes	2,609,213.61								2,609,213.61
Lieu Taxes	329,494.07								329,494.07
Licenses & Permits	290,132.59								290,132.59
Interest	512,063.63	81,181.85					191,226.85		784,472.33
Fines & Forfeits	32,930.29								32,930.29
Departmental Revenue	159,949.37	3,961,092.16		1,662,585.16	390,890.43	238,799.82			6,413,316.94
Fees	69,368.00								69,368.00
Rentals	54,407.85								54,407.85
Umass Transit	46,010.00								46,010.00
Other Miscellaneous	504,702.12	340,200.69	1,089.00				760.00	4,750.00	851,501.81
Grants		7,147,226.22	351,165.00						7,498,391.22
Performance Guarantees		0.00							0.00
Gifts		172,068.26							172,068.26
Temporary Loans			990,000.00						990,000.00
MWPAT									0.00
Bond Proceeds		62,922.00							62,922.00
Total Revenues	54,337,133.28	11,764,691.18	1,342,254.00	1,662,585.16	390,890.43	238,799.82	191,986.85	4,750.00	69,933,090.72
Expenditures:									
General Government	2,342,658.66	572,675.61							2,915,334.27
Protection of Persons & Propert	5,099,728.69	3,141,657.54							8,241,386.23
Education	33,547,685.28	5,665,000.95					4,100.00		39,216,786.23
Public Works	3,128,145.22	880,532.03		1,357,060.56	398,626.85	269,313.53	1,500.00		6,035,178.19
Human Services	993,600.90	263,034.40					6,136.11		1,262,771.41
Culture & Recreation	968,204.35	687,501.54							1,655,705.89
Insurance & Unclassified	6,323,839.52								6,323,839.52
Debt & Interest	932,149.13			414,464.22					1,346,613.35

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance for Period Ended June 30, 2024

	GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS			ENTERPRISE FUNDS			FIDUCIARY TYPE		TOTALS
	General Fund	Special Rev.	Capital Funds	Sewer	Landfill	Stormwater	Expendable	Non-Expendable	(Memo. Only)
Expenditures (continued):									
State Assessments	1,749,307.00								1,749,307.00
Prior Year Expenditures	130,191.18			16,365.54	0.00				146,556.72
Land Purchase									0.00
Construction			893,334.59						893,334.59
Equipment			16,864.11						16,864.11
Return of Unexpended Funds									0.00
Temporary Loan		161,596.69							161,596.69
Total Expenditures	55,215,509.93	11,371,998.76	910,198.70	1,787,890.32	398,626.85	269,313.53	11,736.11	0.00	69,965,274.20
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(878,376.65)	392,692.42	432,055.30	(125,305.16)	(7,736.42)	(30,513.71)	180,250.74	4,750.00	(32,183.48)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):									
Operating Transfers In	1,518,030.00	177,571.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	0.00	1,895,601.92
Operating Transfers Out	377,447.35	1,518,030.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,895,477.35
Total Financing Sources (Uses)	1,140,582.65	(1,340,458.08)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	0.00	124.57
Excess of Revenues & Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures & Other Fin. Uses	262,206.00	(947,765.66)	432,055.30	(125,305.16)	(7,736.42)	(30,513.71)	380,250.74	4,750.00	(32,058.91)
Audit Adjustment *	(165.00)								(165.00)
Fund Balance 7-1-23	3,989,517.12	8,837,095.14	477,587.56	547,051.77	154,728.65	247,849.00	2,809,449.73	736,397.83	17,799,676.80
Fund Balance 6-30-24	4,251,558.12	7,889,329.48	909,642.86	421,746.61	146,992.23	217,335.29	3,189,700.47	741,147.83	17,767,452.89

GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
General Fund
Statement of Revenue, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance
for Period Ended June 30, 2024

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Taxes	33,188,665.00	32,946,482.08	(242,182.92)
State Receipts	16,789,571.00	16,782,379.67	(7,191.33)
Excise Taxes	2,280,000.00	2,609,213.61	329,213.61
Lieu Taxes	324,000.00	329,494.07	5,494.07
Licenses & Permits	235,500.00	290,132.59	54,632.59
Penalties/Interest on Taxes	130,250.00	120,922.00	(9,328.00)
Interest on Deposits	50,000.00	391,141.63	341,141.63
Fines & Forfeits	22,000.00	32,930.29	10,930.29
Departmental Revenue	120,500.00	159,949.37	39,449.37
Medicaid Receipts	160,000.00	251,241.60	91,241.60
Fees	69,728.00	69,368.00	(360.00)
Rentals	43,500.00	54,407.85	10,907.85
Umass Transit	25,500.00	46,010.00	20,510.00
Other (Misc + Mema)	0.00	253,460.52	253,460.52
Temporary Loans	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	53,439,214.00	54,337,133.28	897,919.28
Expenditures:			
General Government	2,467,971.00	2,342,658.66	125,312.34
Protection of Persons & Property	5,420,654.00	5,099,728.69	320,925.31
Education	34,032,927.00	33,547,685.28	485,241.72
Public Works	3,242,479.41	3,128,145.22	114,334.19
Human Services	1,119,542.65	993,600.90	125,941.75
Culture & Recreation	975,141.00	968,204.35	6,936.65
Insurance & Unclassified	6,362,002.59	6,323,839.52	38,163.07
Debt & Interest	954,650.00	932,149.13	22,500.87
State Assessments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prior Year Expenditures	171,417.09	130,191.18	41,225.91
Temporary Loans	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditures	54,746,784.74	53,466,202.93	1,280,581.81
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures		870,930.35	
Other Financing Sources (Uses)			
Operating Transfers In	1,286,000.00	1,518,030.00	
Operating Transfers Out	203,500.00	377,447.35	
Adjustments*		(165.00)	
Total Financing Sources (Uses)	1,082,500.00	1,140,417.65	
Excess of Revenues & Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures & Other Financing Uses		2,011,348.00	
Fund Balance 7/1/23		3,989,517.12	
Fund Balance 6/30/24		6,000,865.12	

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Special Revenue Fund
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance
for Period Ended June 30, 2024

	CPA	Highways	GRANTS Federal	 State	 School Lunch	School Revolvings	Departmental	Agency Funds	Totals (Memo Only)
Revenues:									
Grants	70,046.00	769,285.88	2,242,113.79	1,353,572.66	1,506,890.04		1,205,317.85		7,147,226.22
Collections & Fees	355,451.99		143,831.25	0.00	82,934.97	237,772.28	2,733,096.19	408,005.48	3,961,092.16
Interest	67,174.59			2,048.17	2,709.02		8,162.01	1,088.06	81,181.85
Performance Guarantees									0.00
Gifts			8,763.02	4,248.00			159,057.24		172,068.26
Temporary Loans	62,922.00								62,922.00
Other							180,486.82	159,713.87	340,200.69
Total Revenues	555,594.58	769,285.88	2,394,708.06	1,359,868.83	1,592,534.03	237,772.28	4,286,120.11	568,807.41	11,764,691.18
									11,764,691.18
Expenditures:									
General Government	*144,410.15*			237,756.62			92,056.32	98,452.52	572,675.61
Protection of Persons & Property			2,384,732.30	217,207.03			206,830.09	332,888.12	3,141,657.54
Education			1,608,162.49	180,076.50	1,301,619.91	246,498.87	2,156,089.52	172,553.66	5,665,000.95
Department of Public Works		749,352.38		109,550.00			2,529.65	19,100.00	880,532.03
Human Services			196,204.00	54,360.69			12,469.71	0.00	263,034.40
Culture & Recreation				54,077.20			633,424.34	0.00	687,501.54
Debt & Interest	161,596.69								161,596.69
Total Expenditures	306,006.84	749,352.38	4,189,098.79	853,028.04	1,301,619.91	246,498.87	3,103,399.63	622,994.30	11,371,998.76
									11,371,998.76
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	249,587.74	19,933.50	(1,794,390.73)	506,840.79	290,914.12	(8,726.59)	1,182,720.48	(54,186.89)	392,692.42
Other Financing Sources (Uses):									
Operating Transfers In				23,005.00			154,566.92		177,571.92
Operating Transfers Out			200,000.00	30.00			1,318,000.00		1,518,030.00
Total Financing Sources (Uses)	0.00	0.00	(200,000.00)	22,975.00	0.00	0.00	(1,163,433.08)	0.00	(1,340,458.08)
									(1,340,458.08)
Excess of Revenues & Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures & Other Financ. Uses	249,587.74	19,933.50	(1,994,390.73)	529,815.79	290,914.12	(8,726.59)	19,287.40	(54,186.89)	(947,765.66)
									(947,765.66)
Audit Adjustments									0.00
Balance 7-1-23	1,279,905.18	(158,458.80)	2,246,053.11	(345,933.04)	842,311.39	206,328.46	4,496,260.76	270,628.08	8,837,095.14
Balance 6-30-24	1,529,492.92	(138,525.30)	251,662.38	183,882.75	1,133,225.51	197,601.87	4,515,548.16	216,441.19	7,889,329.48

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Capital Projects Fund
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance
for Period Ended June 30, 2024

	Sewer Upgrades	JBMS School Building Construction	Captial Projects & Equip	Totals (Memo. Only)
Revenues:				
Interest				$0.00
State Grant		$351,165.00		$351,165.00
MWPAT				$0.00
Premium on bond		1,089.00		$1,089.00
Temporary Loans		990,000.00		$990,000.00
Bond Proceeds				$0.00
Total Revenue	0.00	1,342,254.00	0.00	$1,342,254.00
Expenditures:				
Construction		$747,877.15	$145,457.44	$893,334.59
Equipment			$16,864.11	$16,864.11
Return of Unexpended Funds				$0.00
Debt issuance costs - premium			$0.00	$0.00
Principal paydown - premium				$0.00
Temporary Loans				$0.00
Total Expenditures	$0.00	$747,877.15	$162,321.55	$910,198.70
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	$0.00	$594,376.85	($162,321.55)	$432,055.30
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Operating Transfers In			$0.00	$0.00
Operation Transfers Out			$0.00	$0.00
Total Financing Sources (I	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Excess Revenues & Other Finan. Sources Over (Under) Expenditures & Other Finan. Uses	$0.00	$594,376.85	($162,321.55)	$432,055.30
Fund Balance 7-1-23	$70,409.65	($110,817.50)	$517,995.41	$477,587.56
Fund Balance 6-30-24	$70,409.65	$483,559.35	$355,673.86	$909,642.86

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Enterprise Funds
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Changes in Fund Balance
for the Period Ended June 30, 2024

	Wastewater	Transfer Station	Stormwater	Totals (Memo. Only)
Revenue:				
User Fees	1,527,393.73	388,970.00	238,799.82	2,155,163.55
Sewer Assessments	114,871.08			114,871.08
Sewer Connections	15,990.00			15,990.00
Interest	4,330.35			4,330.35
Sale of recycling		1,920.43		1,920.43
Total Revenue	1,662,585.16	390,890.43	238,799.82	2,292,275.41
Expenditures:				
Environmental	1,357,060.56	398,626.85	269,313.53	2,025,000.94
Debt & Interest	414,464.22			414,464.22
Prior Year Expenditures	16,365.54			16,365.54
Total Expenditures	1,787,890.32	398,626.85	269,313.53	2,455,830.70
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(125,305.16)	(7,736.42)	(30,513.71)	(163,555.29)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Operating Transfers In	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Operating Transfers Out	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Total Financing Sources (Uses)	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Excess of Revenues & Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Financing (Uses)	(125,305.16)	(7,736.42)	(30,513.71)	(163,555.29)
Fund Balance 7/1/23	547,051.77	154,728.65	247,849.00	949,629.42
Fund Balance 6/30/24	421,746.61	146,992.23	217,335.29	786,074.13

NON-EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Non-Expendable Trust Funds
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance
June 30, 2024

	Balance 7/1/2023	Additions	Transfers In/(Out)	Balance 6/30/2024
Poor Funds:				
Susan M. D. Bridgman	512,860.69			512,860.69
Whiting Street	10,000.00			10,000.00
School Funds:				
George W. Longley Music	2,000.00			2,000.00
Calvin Bridgman High School	6,000.00			6,000.00
Library Fund:				
Calvin Bridgman Library	4,000.00			4,000.00
Town Clock Fund:				
Fank Scialla Memorial	2,100.00			2,100.00
Senior Center Fund:				
Senior Center Memorial	0.00			0.00
Penson Fund:				
Pensions	0.00			0.00
Retirement Trust	0.00			0.00
Cemetery Funds:				
Perpetual Care	196,437.14	4,750.00		201,187.14
Susan M. D. Bridgman	200.00			200.00
Nellie E. Brown	1,000.00			1,000.00
Willard Stebbins	1,500.00			1,500.00
Vianna E. Somes	300.00			300.00
	736,397.83	4,750.00		741,147.83

EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts
Expendable Trust Funds
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance For Period Ended June 30, 2024

	Balance 7/1/2023	Additions	Income	Expended	Transferred In/(Out)	Reserved	Undes Fund Balance	Balance 6/30/2024
Poor Funds:								
Susan M. D. Bridgman	$283,320.09		$39,071.79	$6,136.11			$316,255.77	$316,255.77
Whiting Street	$62,329.35		$3,549.49				$65,878.84	$65,878.84
School Funds:								
George W. Longley Music	$6,553.99		$419.77				$6,973.76	$6,973.76
Calvin Bridgman High School	$19,382.46		$1,245.62				$20,628.08	$20,628.08
Lillian Moffatt Scholarship	$49,649.66		$2,382.23	$4,000.00			$48,031.89	$48,031.89
C. Schott Memorial Scholarsh	$8,160.78		$400.54				$8,561.32	$8,561.32
Shumway Scholarship	$1,625.50		$78.41	$100.00			$1,603.91	$1,603.91
Library Fund:								
Calvin Bridgman Library	$3,204.93		$353.58				$3,558.51	$3,558.51
Town Clock Fund:								
Fank Scialla Memorial	$4,989.55		$347.95				$5,337.50	$5,337.50
Senior Center Fund:								
Senior Center Memorial	$84,191.99	$760.00	$4,132.86				$89,084.85	$89,084.85
Cemetery Funds:								
Perpetual Care	$76,478.93		$13,393.09	$1,500.00			$88,372.02	$88,372.02
Susan M.D. Bridgman	$1,747.37		$95.55				$1,842.92	$1,842.92
Nellie E. Brown	$2,155.88		$154.84				$2,310.72	$2,310.72
Willard Stebbins	$3,058.54		$223.70				$3,282.24	$3,282.24
Vianna E. Somes	$3,189.23		$171.20				$3,360.43	$3,360.43
Pension Fund	$0.00						$0.00	$0.00
Retirement Trust	$0.00						$0.00	$0.00
Conservation Fund	$1,026.34		$50.35				$1,076.69	$1,076.69
OPEB Liability Trust	$298,604.64		$31,926.04				$330,530.68	$330,530.68
Stabilization Fund	$1,748,151.95		$85,788.82		$200,000.00		$2,033,940.77	$2,033,940.77
Workers' Compensation Fund	$151,628.55		$7,441.02				$159,069.57	$159,069.57
	$2,809,449.73	$760.00	$191,226.85	$11,736.11	$200,000.00	$0.00	$3,189,700.47	$3,189,700.47

AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE

Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts

Amortization Schedule
June 30, 2024

	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	830,062.17	204,434.96	1,034,497.13
2026	822,488.37	170,422.83	992,911.20
2027	814,963.04	136,726.93	951,689.97
2028	537,487.17	109,395.55	646,882.72
2029	434,903.00	89,346.65	524,249.65
2030	435,507.00	70,392.55	505,899.55
2031	431,124.00	56,126.24	487,250.24
2032	395,000.00	46,915.00	441,915.00
2033	285,000.00	39,640.00	324,640.00
2034	285,000.00	33,940.00	318,940.00
2035	265,000.00	28,440.00	293,440.00
2036	265,000.00	23,140.00	288,140.00
2037	265,000.00	17,840.00	282,840.00
2038	180,000.00	13,390.00	193,390.00
2039	170,000.00	9,890.00	179,890.00
2040	130,000.00	6,825.00	136,825.00
2041	130,000.00	4,095.00	134,095.00
2042	130,000.00	1,365.00	131,365.00
	6,806,534.75	1,062,325.71	7,868,860.46

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES COMPARED WITH AUTHORIZATIONS

Town of Belchertown
Statement of Expenditures as Compared with Authorizations
For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET
General Government				
10122 SELECTMEN	17,590.00	17,524.45	-	65.55
10123 TOWN MANAGER	278,697.00	277,828.15	-	868.85
10124 CH. 137 MILITARY LEAVE P	100.00	-	-	100.00
10125 CABLE TV ACCESS	1,500.00	1,487.87	-	12.13
10128 BCTV OPERATIONS (THRU RC	73,000.00	73,000.00	-	-
10130 HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.	109,154.00	107,961.54	-	1,192.46
10131 FINANCE COMMITTEE	250.00	220.00	-	30.00
10132 RESERVE FUND	6,439.00	-	-	6,439.00
10135 ACCOUNTANT	262,262.00	259,945.27	-	2,316.73
10138 COMPUTER DIRECTOR	524,180.00	472,743.26	50,651.55	785.19
10141 BOARD OF ASSESSORS	379,054.00	364,870.04	6,362.50	7,821.46
10142 ASSESSORS LAW ACCOUNT	100.00	-	-	100.00
10148 TREASURER/COLLECTOR	291,230.00	265,030.62	36.08	25,758.48
10151 LAW ACCOUNT	92,800.00	85,177.98	-	7,622.02
10161 TOWN CLERK	166,191.00	158,990.59	-	7,200.41
10162 ELECTION & REGISTRATION	49,590.00	48,227.12	-	1,362.88
10171 CONSERVATION COMMISSION	83,443.00	81,197.69	-	2,245.31
10174 PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING	2,803.00	2,802.45	-	0.55
10175 PLANNING BOARD	124,363.00	122,585.12	-	1,777.88
10176 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	2,750.00	1,108.42	-	1,641.58
10178 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT I.C	375.00	346.11	-	28.89
10185 MOBILEHOME RENT CONTROL	100.00	-	-	100.00
10195 PRINTING ANNUAL REPORTS	2,000.00	1,611.98	-	388.02
	2,467,971.00	2,342,658.66	57,050.13	67,857.39
Public Safety				
10210 POLICE DEPARTMENT	2,684,864.00	2,548,112.65	14,389.57	122,361.78
10220 FIRE DEPARTMENT	2,378,430.00	2,212,400.22	5,947.14	160,082.64
10222 HYDRANT SERVICE	28,456.00	28,356.00	-	100.00
10236 INJURED ON DUTY EXPENSES	8,000.00	1,407.41	-	6,592.59
10241 INSPECTION SERVICES	200,964.00	196,012.89	-	4,951.11
10291 CIVIL DEFENSE	2,840.00	1,829.19	-	1,010.81
10292 DOG OFFICER	117,100.00	111,610.33	-	5,489.67
	5,420,654.00	5,099,728.69	20,336.71	300,588.60
Education				
TOWN SCHOOLS	32,597,863.00	32,112,621.28	478,305.15	6,936.57
10350 PATHFINDER REGIONAL H.S.	1,435,064.00	1,435,064.00	-	-
	34,032,927.00	33,547,685.28	478,305.15	6,936.57
Public Works & Facilities				
10192 MAINTENANCE: BLDGS,GROUN	552,005.00	532,871.81	18,040.81	1,092.38
10193 LAWRENCE MEMORIAL HALL	82,850.00	79,014.26	-	3,835.74
10194 FINNERTY HOUSE	10,460.00	10,348.95	-	111.05
10215 E M S DEPARTMENT BUILDIN	10,775.00	10,072.62	-	702.38
10411 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING	36,500.00	31,089.00	2,400.00	3,011.00
10419 HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION E	22,790.00	22,682.51	-	107.49
10420 HIGHWAY DEPT. UNIFORMS	12,050.00	12,050.00	-	-
10421 HIGHWAY DEPT. PERSONNEL	1,032,975.00	*1,025,107.84*	-	7,867.16
10423 SNOW AND ICE CONTROL	242,000.00	*234,900.60*	-	7,099.40

Town of Belchertown
Statement of Expenditures as Compared with Authorizations
For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

10424 STREET LIGHTING	46,500.00	44,587.60	-	1,912.40
10425 HIGHWAY ROAD MACHINERY	262,901.00	250,937.71	-	11,963.29
10429 STREETS/CONSTRUCT/MAINT	247,500.00	245,882.77	-	1,617.23
10430 TOWN GARAGES	43,380.00	39,467.70	-	3,912.30
10432 HIGHWAY HIRED SERVICES	261,500.00	248,564.43	-	12,935.57
10437 POLICE STATION	69,105.00	69,094.74	-	10.26
10438 SR. CENTER BUILDING	80,705.00	72,348.09	8,299.00	57.91
10439 RECREATION BUILDING	36,240.00	36,235.06	-	4.94
10440 FREEDOM CENTER	32,151.00	31,969.32	-	181.68
10443 FAMILY CENTER (FMRLY FRA	4,690.00	3,510.79	-	1,179.21
10445 ANIMAL CONTROL BUILDING	8,640.00	7,644.82	-	995.18
10457 FIRE STATION BUILDING	57,560.00	52,875.97	4,652.40	31.63
10466 TADGELL-MEMA SPACE	39,645.00	29,720.74	8,607.63	1,316.63
10490 CEMETERY LOT DEVELOPMENT	5,000.00	2,000.00	-	3,000.00
10491 CEMETERY DEPARTMENT	29,500.00	21,196.33	8,300.87	2.80
10635 OLD TOWN HALL EXPENSES	10,000.00	9,739.25	-	260.75
10650 TOWN COMMON	5,057.41	4,232.31	-	825.10
	3,242,479.41	3,128,145.22	50,300.71	64,033.48
Human Services				
10519 BOARD OF HEALTH	17,481.00	7,707.35	-	9,773.65
10522 QUABBIN HEALTH DISTRICT	186,209.65	186,209.66	-	(0.01)
10541 COUNCIL ON AGING	580,193.00	550,267.16	-	29,925.84
10543 VETERANS' SERVICES	92,034.00	92,034.00	-	-
10549 VETERANS' GRAVES	2,625.00	1,578.17	-	1,046.83
10560 VETERANS' BENEFITS	241,000.00	155,804.56	-	85,195.44
	1,119,542.65	993,600.90	-	125,941.75
Culture & Recreation				
10610 CLAPP MEMORIAL LIBRARY	582,530.00	581,411.06	-	1,118.94
10630 RECREATION DEPARTMENT	360,343.00	356,305.45	-	4,037.55
10632 RECREATION - POOL ACCOUN	27,350.00	27,350.00	-	-
10639 TOWN BEACH	2,470.00	2,211.49	-	258.51
10646 FAMILY CENTER	700.00	-	-	700.00
10651 TOWN CLOCK	600.00	600.00	-	-
10685 HISTORIC DISTRICT	348.00	-	-	348.00
10691 HISTORICAL COMMISSION	500.00	326.35	-	173.65
10692 PATRIOTIC EXERCISES	300.00	-	-	300.00
	975,141.00	968,204.35	-	6,936.65
Debt Service				
10710 RETIREMENT OF DEBT	710,000.00	710,000.00	-	-
10750 INTEREST	244,650.00	222,149.13	-	22,500.87
	954,650.00	932,149.13	-	22,500.87
Insurance & Unclassified				
10694 UNCLASSIFIED ACCOUNT	75,950.00	73,975.98	-	1,974.02
10911 PENSIONS	4,227,760.00	4,227,760.00	-	-
10912 WORKERS' COMPENSATION	8,000.00	-	-	8,000.00
10913 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATIO	20,600.00	11,207.14	-	9,392.86
10916 FRINGE BENEFITS TWN SHAR	1,468,500.00	1,449,897.73	-	18,602.27
10945 GENERAL INSURANCE	557,500.00	557,306.08	-	193.92

Town of Belchertown
Statement of Expenditures as Compared with Authorizations
For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

10960 UNPAID BILLS - PRIOR YEA	3,692.59	3,692.59	-	-
	6,362,002.59	6,323,839.52	-	38,163.07
Encumbered Funds				
General Government	69,518.08	67,407.08		2,111.00
Protection of Persons & Prop.*	37,760.38	37,383.96		376.42
School Department	11,614.33	1,308.02		10,306.31
Public Works	13,891.30	13,590.97		300.33
Unclassified	1,820.00	1,820.00		-
Human Services	150.00	150.00		-
Culture & Recreation	8,663.00	8,531.15		131.85
Capital & one time	-			-
Prior encumbrance held	28,000.00	-	28,000.00	-
	171,417.09	130,191.18	28,000.00	13,225.91
Summary				
General Government	$2,467,971.00	$2,342,658.66	$57,050.13	$67,857.39
Protection of Persons/Property	$5,420,654.00	$5,099,728.69	$20,336.71	$300,588.60
Education	$34,032,927.00	$33,547,685.28	$478,305.15	$6,936.57
Public Works	$3,242,479.41	$3,128,145.22	$50,300.71	$64,033.48
Human Services	$1,119,542.65	$993,600.90	$0.00	$125,941.75
Culture & Recreation	$975,141.00	$968,204.35	$0.00	$6,936.65
Insurance & Unclassified	$6,362,002.59	$6,323,839.52	$0.00	$38,163.07
Debt & Interest	$954,650.00	$932,149.13	$0.00	$22,500.87
	$54,575,367.65	$53,336,011.75	$605,992.70	$632,958.38
Encumbered Funds	$171,417.09	$130,191.18	$28,000.00	$13,225.91
TOTALS	$54,746,784.74	$53,466,202.93	$633,992.70	$646,184.29

TOWN TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
TOWN / TAX COLLECTOR
REPORT
7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024

FISCAL REAL ESTATE 2022		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 23,907.74
COLLECTED	$ 10,910.84	
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2024	$ 12,996.90	
	$ 23,907.74	$ 23,907.74

FISCAL REAL ESTATE 2023		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 348,961.65
REFUNDED		$ 12.36
COLLECTED	$ 186,222.35	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 162,751.66	
	$ 348,974.01	$ 348,974.01

FISCAL REAL ESTATE 2024		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 15,656,733.95
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 16,789,167.60
REFUNDED		$ 107,260.81
ABATED	$ 213,653.86	
COLLECTED	$ 31,916,923.33	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 422,585.17	
	$ 32,553,162.36	$ 32,553,162.36

FISCAL REAL ESTATE 2025		
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 16,293,731.98
COLLECTED	$ 52,226.25	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 16,241,505.73	
	$ 16,293,731.98	$ 16,293,731.98

REAL ESTATE NEW CONN 2023		
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 23,199.79
COLLECTED	$ 13,793.27	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 9,406.52	
	$ 23,199.79	$ 23,199.79

REAL ESTATE NEW CONN 2024		
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 35,013.22
COLLECTED	$ 26,210.00	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 8,803.22	
	$ 35,013.22	$ 35,013.22

CPA 2022		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023		$ 113.74
COLLECTED	$ -	
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2024	$ 113.74	
	$ 113.74	$ 113.74

CPA 2023		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 2,797.40
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 322.48
COLLECTED	$ 1,851.37	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 1,268.51	
	$ 3,119.88	$ 3,119.88

CPA 2024		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 167,324.24
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 360,037.96
REFUNDED		$ 153.03
ABATED	$ 3,709.03	
COLLECTED	$ 352,455.98	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 171,350.22	
	$ 527,515.23	$ 527,515.23

FISCAL 2024 PERS PROP		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023		$ 484,441.19
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 408,505.54
REFUNDED		$ 8,422.15
ABATED	$ 4,475.59	
COLLECTED	$ 884,088.92	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 12,804.37	
	$ 901,368.88	$ 901,368.88

FISCAL 2025 PERS PROP		
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 447,600.85
COLLECTED	$ 3,966.31	
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2024	$ 443,634.54	
	$ 447,600.85	$ 447,600.85

CPA 2025		
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 181,447.36
COLLECTED	$ 606.25	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 180,841.11	
	$ 181,447.36	$ 181,447.36

2023 SEWER CHARGE		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023		$ 371,102.16
REFUNDED		$ 7,258.38
TO LIENS	$ 67,290.09	
COLLECTED	$ 311,070.45	
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2024	$ -	
	$ 378,360.54	$ 378,360.54

2023 SEWER LIENS		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023		$ 7,754.81
COLLECTED	$ 2,833.35	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 4,921.46	
	$ 7,754.81	$ 7,754.81

2024 SEWER CHARGES		
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 1,589,406.22
ABATED	$ 56.64	
COLLECTED	$ 1,158,681.87	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 430,667.71	
	$ 1,589,406.22	$ 1,589,406.22

2024 SEWER LIENS		
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 67,290.09
COLLECTED	$ 59,883.58	
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2024	$ 7,406.51	
	$ 67,290.09	$ 67,290.09

FISCAL 2019 PERS PROP		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023		$ 1,753.96
COLLECTED	$ 131.71	
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2024	$ 1,622.25	
	$ 1,753.96	$ 1,753.96

FISCAL 2020 PERS PROP		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 2,699.16
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 2,699.16	
	$ 2,699.16	$ 2,699.16

FISCAL 2021 PERS PROP		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023		$ 2,443.83
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2024	$ 2,443.83	
	$ 2,443.83	$ 2,443.83

FISCAL 2022 PERS PROP		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 1,260.09
COLLECTED		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 1,260.09	
	$ 1,260.09	$ 1,260.09

FISCAL 2023 PERS PROP		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 20,037.97
ABATED		
COLLECTED	$ 10,506.24	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 9,531.73	
	$ 20,037.97	$ 20,037.97

2019 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023		$ 6,383.42
COLLECTED	$ 1,118.00	
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2024	$ 5,265.42	
	$ 6,383.42	$ 6,383.42

2020 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 7,861.55
REFUNDED		$ 9.23
ABATED	$ 60.35	
COLLECTED	$ 2,626.30	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 5,184.13	
	$ 7,870.78	$ 7,870.78

TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
TOWN / TAX COLLECTOR
REPORT
7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024

2021 STORMWATER		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 6,633.60
COLLECTED		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 6,633.60	
	$ 6,633.60	$ 6,633.60

2022 STORMWATER LIEN		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 28.80
COLLECTED	$ -	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 28.80	
	$ 28.80	$ 28.80

2022 STORMWATER		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 5,563.70
REFUNDED		
COLLECTED		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 5,563.70	
	$ 5,563.70	$ 5,563.70

2023 STORMWATER LIEN		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 1,092.55
COLLECTED	$ 455.16	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 637.39	
	$ 1,092.55	$ 1,092.55

2023 STORMWATER		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 22,781.46
REFUNDED		$ 613.37
ABATED	$ 613.37	
TO LIEN	$ 14,164.92	
COLLECTED	$ 4,421.19	
OUSTANDING	$ 4,195.35	
	$ 23,394.83	$ 23,394.83

2024 STORMWATER		
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 247,625.95
REFUNDED		$ 1,067.16
ABATED		
COLLECTED	$ 221,070.64	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 27,622.47	
	$ 248,693.11	$ 248,693.11

2018 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023		$ 8,885.32
COLLECTED	$ 651.25	
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2024	$ 8,234.07	
	$ 8,885.32	$ 8,885.32

COMSTAR AMBULANCE ACCOUNT		
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2023		976118.06
COMMITTED FOR COLL.		4301633.1
REFUNDED		$ 4,459.54
ABATED	$ 3,167,677.02	
COLLECTED	$ 1,315,983.85	
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2024	$ 798,549.83	
	$ 5,282,210.70	$ 5,282,210.70

2021 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 11,134.54
REFUNDED		$ 1,256.42
ABATED	$ 107.42	
COLLECTED	$ 5,474.92	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 6,808.62	
	$ 12,390.96	$ 12,390.96

2022 MOTOR VEHICLE		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 34,324.27
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 72.07
REFUNDED		$ 1,386.99
ABATED	$ 1,617.91	
COLLECTED	$ 20,287.18	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 13,878.24	
	$ 35,783.33	$ 35,783.33

2023 MOTOR VEHICLE		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 157,441.06
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 242,466.07
REFUNDED		$ 30,779.37
ABATED	$ 24,001.30	
COLLECTED	$ 375,592.94	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 31,092.26	
	$ 430,686.50	$ 430,686.50

2024 MOTOR VEHICLE		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 2,375,367.89
REFUNDED		$ 15,913.72
ABATED	$ 101,885.88	
COLLECTED	$ 2,026,822.17	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 262,573.56	
	$ 2,391,281.61	$ 2,391,281.61

2023 TRI-LAKES BETT		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ 1,982.37
COLLECTED	$ 1,982.37	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ -	
	$ 1,982.37	$ 1,982.37

2024 TRI-LAKES BETT		
COMMITTED FOR COLLECTION		$ 114,776.15
REFUNDED		$ 660.79
ABATED	$ 660.79	
COLLECTED	$ 112,232.33	
OUTSTANDING 06/30/2024	$ 2,543.82	
	$ 115,436.94	$ 115,436.94

MISCELLANEOUS REC.		
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2023		$ -
COMMITTED		$ 30,912.19
ABATED	$ -	
COLLECTED	$ 30,736.61	
OUTSTANDING 6/30/2024	$ 175.58	
	$ 30,912.19	$ 30,912.19

TOWN AND TAX COLLECTOR JULY 1, 2023- JUNE 30,2024	
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	$ 38,427,919.46
AMBULANCE ACCT	$ 798,549.83
TOTAL	$ 39,226,469.29

TAXES,LIENS,EXCISES	$ 37,931,850.32
INTEREST/FEES	$ 138,963.22
SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS	$ 1,542.31
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT/INT	$ 355,563.61
AMBULANCE ACCT	$ 798,549.83
TOTAL	$ 39,226,469.29

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
SARAH MANN

TOWN TREASURER REPORT

REPORT OF TOWN TREASURER
JULY 1, 2023- JUNE 30,2024

CASH ON HAND 6/30/2023	$ 19,987,875.58	PAYMENTS AS AUTHORIZED	$ 79,636,428.81
RECEIPTS	$ 80,184,494.50	CASH ON HAND 6/30/2024	$ 20,535,941.27
	$ 100,172,370.08		$ 100,172,370.08

INTEREST INCOME FROM SAVINGS DEPOSITS, INVESTMENTS, BUT EXCLUDING TRUST FUNDS, SPECIAL ACCTS & STABILIZATION FUND $ 391,141.63

ACCOUNT	TRUST FUNDS BALANCE 7/1/2023	AND DEPOSITS	SPECIAL ACCOUNTS INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	TRANSFERS&W/D	BALANCE 6/30/2024
SCHOOL FUNDS					
C. BRIDGMAN (H.S.)	$ 25,382.46		$ 1,245.62		$ 26,628.08
GEORGE LONGLEY	$ 8,553.99		$ 419.77		$ 8,973.76
TAX SCHOLARSHIP	$ 25,543.81	$ 132.81	$ 231.73	$ (3,873.10)	$ 22,035.25
LILLIAN MOFFATT SCHOLARSHIP	$ 49,649.66		$ 2,382.23	$ (4,000.00)	$ 48,031.89
CAROLYN SCHOTT SCHOLARSHIP	$ 8,160.78		$ 400.54	$ -	$ 8,561.32
SHUMWAY SCHOLARSHIP	$ 1,625.50		$ 78.41	$ (100.00)	$ 1,603.91
CEMETERY FUNDS					
SUSAN BRIDGMAN	$ 1,947.37		$ 95.55		$ 2,042.92
WILLARD STEBBINS	$ 4,558.54		$ 223.70		$ 4,782.24
VIANNA SOMES	$ 3,489.23		$ 171.20		$ 3,660.43
NELLIE BROWN	$ 3,155.88		$ 154.84		$ 3,310.72
PERPETUAL CARE	$ 272,916.07		$ 13,393.09		$ 286,309.16
POOR FUNDS					
SUSAN BRIDGMAN	$ 796,180.78	$ -	$ 39,071.79		$ 835,252.57
WHITING STREET	$ 72,329.35		$ 3,549.49		$ 75,878.84
MISC FUNDS					
F. SCIALLA (CLOCK)	$ 7,089.55		$ 347.95		$ 7,437.50
C. BRIDGMAN (LIBRARY)	$ 7,204.93		$ 353.58		$ 7,558.51
CONSERVATION	$ 1,026.34		$ 50.35		$ 1,076.69
SENIOR CENTER	$ 84,216.99		$ 4,132.86		$ 88,349.85
STABILIZATION FUND	$ 1,748,151.95		$ 85,788.82		$ 1,833,940.77
WORKERS COMPENSATION TRUST	$ 151,628.55		$ 7,441.02		$ 159,069.57
DRUG FORFEITURE ACCOUNT	$ 156,675.69		$ 7,688.73		$ 164,364.42
CULTURAL COUNCIL	$ 41,736.54		$ 2,048.17		$ 43,784.71
OPEB	$ 248,604.64	$ 50,000.00	$ 31,926.04		$ 330,530.68
TOTALS	$ 3,719,828.60	$ 50,132.81	$ 201,195.48	$ (7,973.10)	$ 3,963,183.79

FOOTNOTE: It is the policy of this office based on the request of the Town's financial audit firm that we record to the market values of the investments in our portfolio. Position and account values shown are based on trade date and do not necessarily reflect the actual current market prices or redemption value at the time of sale.

Over 87% of the Town's investments are held in fixed income products and all investments are made in compliance of M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 54, Sec. 55, 55B and M.G.L. Ch. 32B, Sec 20

FUNDS BORROWED DURING issue **THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2023- JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE & PURPOSE	FROM	DATED	AMOUNT	DUE DATE	INTEREST RATE
FY2019 & FY2022 Capital Projects Bond	FHN Financial Capital Markets	10/28/2021	$ 5,345,000.00	10/15/2041	1.55%
State House Note #1006-1 JBMS Feasibility Study	Cede & Co	12/22/2023	$ 990,000.00	12/20/2024	4.50%
State House Note #1007-1 Conservation Land Acq.	bankESB	3/22/2024	62,922.00	3/21/2025	4.65%

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
SARAH MANN
TOWN TREASURER

TOWN CLERK REPORTS

TOWN CLERK 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

TOWN CLERK
2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
B-M-D CERTIFIED COPY	$920.00	$510.00	$770.00	$1,050.00	$1,260.00	$510.00	$1,470.00	$1,725.00	$1,730.00	$1,020.00	$435.00	$875.00	**$12,275.00**
MARRIAGE INTENTIONS	$90.00	$60.00	$90.00	$90.00	$210.00	$320.00	$180.00	$180.00	$315.00	$120.00	$30.00	$60.00	**$1,745.00**
BOARD OF APPEALS FEE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$150.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$150.00**
BURIAL PERMIT	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$105.00	$90.00	$30.00	$60.00	$90.00	$75.00	$60.00	$15.00	$110.00	**$725.00**
BUSINESS REGISTRATION	$280.00	$410.00	$360.00	$120.00	$200.00	$0.00	$140.00	$400.00	$250.00	$200.00	$150.00	$750.00	**$3,260.00**
CIVIL DISPOSITION FINE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$100.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$100.00**
DOG FINES	$100.00	$1,550.00	$3,084.00	$1,340.00	$773.00	$637.00	$300.00	$100.00	$2,870.00	$400.00	$160.00	$1,176.05	**$12,490.05**
ANIMAL CONTROL FEES	$100.00	$200.00	$144.00	$30.00	$0.00	$510.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$15.00	$0.00	$400.00	**$1,399.00**
DOG LICENSE FEE	$10,484.00	$6,791.00	$2,268.00	$504.00	$383.00	$205.00	$248.00	$140.00	$1,085.00	$318.00	$138.00	$13,590.00	**$36,154.00**
DOG GIFT FUND	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$11.00	**$11.00**
DOG LICENSE POSTAGE	$540.00	$294.00	$120.00	$30.00	$14.00	$12.00	$10.00	$4.00	$38.00	$14.00	$8.00	$634.00	**$1,718.00**
FUEL/GAS REGISTRATION	$0.00	$1,500.00	$325.00	$250.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$2,075.00**
PLANNING BOARD FEE	$0.00	$150.00	$1,600.00	$1,700.00	$800.00	$1,025.00	$0.00	$750.00	$275.00	$200.00	$100.00	$0.00	**$6,600.00**
POLE ORDER FEE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$240.00	$90.00	$90.00	$0.00	$0.00	$120.00	$0.00	**$540.00**
RAFFLE PERMIT FEE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$15.00	$0.00	$0.00	$30.00	$0.00	$105.00	$15.00	$0.00	$15.00	**$180.00**
STREET LIST BOOK FEE	$0.00	$0.00	$25.00	$0.00	$0.00	$45.00	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00	$25.00	$0.00	$25.00	**$170.00**
ZONING/SUBDIVISION FEE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$150.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$10.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$160.00**
MISC SALES	$35.00	$0.00	$25.00	$20.00	$50.00	$10.00	$20.00	$20.00	$0.00	$21.50	$30.00	$50.00	**$281.50**
TOTAL	**$12,579.00**	**$11,495.00**	**$8,841.00**	**$5,404.00**	**$3,780.00**	**$3,644.00**	**$2,698.00**	**$3,549.00**	**$6,743.00**	**$2,418.50**	**$1,186.00**	**$17,696.05**	**$80,033.55**

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa A. Camerlin
Town Clerk

TOWN CLERK 2024 VITAL STATISTICS

TOWN CLERK
2024 VITAL STATISTICS

Births:	Male	Female
	49	46

Place of Birth:

Belchertown	1
Boston	1
Greenfield	4
Northampton	26
Springfield	61
Worcester	2

Marriages:

Note: in March of 2024, the Commonwealth of MA ceased collecting data regarding Male/Female designations on Marriage Intentions

Belchertown Resident	90
Non-Resident	22

Marriages in Belchertown: 26

Marriages Out-of-Town: 30

Deaths:	Male	Female
Belchertown Resident	71	58
Non-Resident	0	0

Place of Death:

Agawam	2	Palmer	18
Amherst	3	Reading	1
Belchertown	50	South Hadley	1
East Longmeadow	3	Springfield	28
Greenfield	5	Ware	1
Hadley	2	West Brookfield	2
Holyoke	3	Worcester	1
Longmeadow	1		
Northampton	8		

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
MARCH 5, 2024

BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
MARCH 5, 2024 - OFFICIAL RESULTS

REGISTERED VOTERS, BALLOTS CAST AND TURNOUT

	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
REGISTERED VOTERS - REPUBLICAN	325	398	407	222	**1352**
REGISTERED VOTERS - DEMOCRATIC	688	608	611	792	**2699**
REGISTERED VOTERS - LIBERTARIAN	5	14	10	9	**38**
REGISTERED VOTERS - UNENROLLED	1977	2066	2003	1917	**7963**
REGISTERED VOTERS - OTHER	32	21	25	24	**102**
REGISTERED VOTERS - TOTAL	**3027**	**3107**	**3056**	**2964**	**12154**
BALLOTS CAST - REPUBLICAN	368	432	397	307	**1504**
BALLOTS CAST - DEMOCRATIC	532	374	437	534	**1877**
BALLOTS CAST - LIBERTARIAN	12	19	15	11	**57**
BALLOTS CAST - TOTAL	**912**	**825**	**849**	**852**	**3438**
PERCENTAGE OF VOTER TURNOUT	**30.1%**	**26.6%**	**27.8%**	**28.7%**	**28.3%**

DEMOCRATIC BALLOT

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE *Vote for one or 'No Preference'*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
DEAN PHILLIPS	14	16	16	22	**68**
JOSEPH R BIDEN	454	295	371	432	**1552**
MARIANNE WILLIAMSON	17	15	13	30	**75**
CENK UYGER - WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	0	1	1	0	**2**
NO PREFERENCE	36	37	24	38	**135**
ALL OTHERS	7	8	7	5	**27**
BLANKS	4	2	5	7	**18**
TOTALS	**532**	**374**	**437**	**534**	**1877**

STATE COMMITTEE MAN *Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
BRUCE SAMUEL ADAMS, JR.	400	278	307	384	**1369**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	0	1	**1**
BLANKS	132	96	130	149	**507**
TOTALS	**532**	**374**	**437**	**534**	**1877**

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN *Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
MARYGAIL B. COKKINIAS	401	276	305	394	**1376**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	0	1	**1**
BLANKS	131	98	132	139	**500**
TOTALS	**532**	**374**	**437**	**534**	**1877**

TOWN COMMITTEE *Vote for up to thirty-five*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
CARA L. LAPENAS	347	241	269	349	**1206**
AARON L. SAUNDERS	363	256	279	363	**1261**
LORING M. CANEY, JR.	350	226	260	344	**1180**
KAREN A. CHRISMAN	339	224	261	348	**1172**
EDWINA J. CRUISE	345	229	256	355	**1185**
JENINE LOUISE DAVISON	345	226	259	343	**1173**
KENNETH E. ELSTEIN	356	234	272	380	**1242**
FAY M. FLANARY	355	230	265	350	**1200**
JAMES J. GAMBARO	343	232	261	355	**1191**
LYNETTE MARIE KNAPP	354	240	271	356	**1221**

MICHAEL JAMES KNAPP	356	244	275	358	**1233**
LESA JEAN LESSARD PEARSON	348	240	270	350	**1208**
CYNTHIA LOISELLE	341	225	258	339	**1163**
BJORN O. MARKESON	336	224	256	347	**1163**
TERRY S. NAGEL	356	241	272	358	**1227**
MICHAEL JOSEPH POTISHNAK	335	220	255	345	**1155**
RANDI BETH SHENKMAN	348	240	269	352	**1209**
MARYELLEN O'REILLY-BRACEY	355	234	272	348	**1209**
DARLENE SLIWA, JR.	349	238	263	345	**1195**
JAMES E. BROWN	338	222	256	341	**1157**
CARLA H. DELL'OLIO	343	238	275	352	**1208**
FRANCESCO DELL'OLIO	340	234	279	348	**1201**
ELIZABETH A. POLS	342	225	263	359	**1189**
RUDY M. CASSIDY	342	226	253	349	**1170**
JAMES W. WALKER	339	226	256	345	**1166**
LIBBY OVERLY	346	235	258	341	**1180**
TERESA HALPERIN	346	234	266	348	**1194**
ALL OTHERS	2	0	1	10	**13**
BLANKS	9261	6806	8145	9212	**33424**
TOTALS	**18620**	**13090**	**15295**	**18690**	**65695**

LIBERTARIAN BALLOT

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE	*Vote for one or 'No Preference'*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
JACOB GEORGE HORNBERGER		1	0	1	0	**2**
MICHAEL D. RECTENWALD		0	1	1	0	**2**
CHASE RUSSELL OLIVER		4	5	4	2	**15**
MICHAEL TER MAAT		0	0	0	0	**0**
LARS DAMIAN MAPSTEAD		0	0	1	1	**2**
NO PREFERENCE		4	7	5	4	**20**
ALL OTHERS		3	1	2	3	**9**
BLANKS		0	5	1	1	**7**
TOTALS		**2995**	**3086**	**3031**	**2940**	**12052**

STATE COMMITTEE MAN	*Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS		0	0	1	0	**1**
BLANKS		12	19	14	11	**56**
TOTALS		**12**	**19**	**15**	**11**	**57**

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN	*Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS		0	0	0	0	**1**
BLANKS		12	19	15	11	**56**
TOTALS		**12**	**19**	**15**	**11**	**57**

TOWN COMMITTEE	*Vote for up to ten*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
WRITE-INS		0	1	0	0	**1**
BLANKS		120	189	150	110	**569**
TOTALS		**120**	**190**	**150**	**110**	**570**

REPUBLICAN BALLOT

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE	*Vote for one OR 'No Preference'*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
CHRIS CHRISTIE		5	3	4	3	**15**
RYAN BINKLEY		0	1	0	0	**1**
VIVEK RAMASWAMY		1	1	1	1	**4**
ASA HUTCHINSON		2	0	0	0	**2**
DONALD J. TRUMP		205	272	254	160	**891**
RON DeSANTIS		6	5	1	2	**14**
NIKKI HALEY		140	143	127	136	**546**
NO PREFERENCE		8	6	8	2	**24**
ALL OTHERS		1	1	1	2	**5**
BLANKS		0	0	1	1	**2**
TOTALS		**6054**	**6214**	**6112**	**5928**	**24308**

STATE COMMITTEE MAN	*Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
SIDNEY M. STARKS		200	260	242	171	**873**
ALL OTHERS		1	0	0	2	**3**
BLANKS		167	172	155	134	**628**
TOTALS		**368**	**432**	**397**	**307**	**1504**

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN	*Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
VIRGINIA E. NEILL		190	252	242	167	**851**
ALL OTHERS		1	1	0	3	**5**
BLANKS		177	179	155	137	**648**
TOTALS		**368**	**432**	**397**	**307**	**1504**

TOWN COMMITTEE	*Vote for up to thirty-five*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
ALL OTHERS		14	4	3	7	**28**
BLANKS		12866	15116	13892	10738	**52612**
TOTALS		**12880**	**15120**	**13895**	**10745**	**52640**

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION MAY 20, 2024

BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

MAY 20, 2024 - OFFICIAL RESULTS

REGISTERED VOTERS, BALLOTS CAST AND TURNOUT	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
REGISTERED VOTERS - REPUBLICAN	324	398	408	225	**1355**
REGISTERED VOTERS - DEMOCRATIC	689	602	608	783	**2682**
REGISTERED VOTERS - LIBERTARIAN	5	13	10	8	**36**
REGISTERED VOTERS - UNENROLLED	2008	2104	2024	1953	**8089**
REGISTERED VOTERS - OTHER	32	21	26	25	**104**
REGISTERED VOTERS - TOTAL	**3058**	**3138**	**3076**	**2994**	**12266**
BALLOTS CAST - TOTAL	**314**	**296**	**309**	**280**	**1199**
PERCENTAGE OF VOTER TURNOUT	**10.3%**	**9.4%**	**10.0%**	**9.4%**	**9.8%**

TOWN CLERK *Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
THERESA A. CAMERLIN	299	279	294	264	**1136**
ALL OTHERS	0	4	2	0	**6**
BLANKS	15	13	13	16	**57**
TOTALS	**314**	**296**	**309**	**280**	**1199**

SELECT BOARD *Vote for two*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
WHITNEY JORNS KUHNLENZ	259	253	258	247	**1017**
NICOLE ANN MINER	251	247	266	231	**995**
ALL OTHERS	16	18	15	7	**56**
BLANKS	102	74	79	75	**330**
TOTALS	**628**	**592**	**618**	**560**	**2398**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE *Vote for two*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
RUBY BANSAL	265	254	267	257	**1043**
AMY BW LAMOTHE	268	254	269	252	**1043**
ALL OTHERS	0	5	3	2	**10**
BLANKS	95	79	79	49	**302**
TOTALS	**628**	**592**	**618**	**560**	**2398**

PLANNING BOARD *Vote for two*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
LEONARD D. BILODEAU	268	263	275	246	**1052**
ALL OTHERS	1	0	0	0	**1**
BLANKS	45	33	34	34	**146**
TOTALS	**314**	**296**	**309**	**280**	**1199**

BOARD OF ASSESSORS *Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
CRAIG TOMMILA	9	14	7	12	**42**
ALL OTHERS	5	9	10	4	**28**
BLANKS	300	273	292	264	**1129**
TOTALS	**314**	**296**	**309**	**280**	**1199**

BOARD OF HEALTH	*Vote for two*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
COLLEN M. DUROSHEA		274	269	273	255	**1071**
ALL OTHERS		0	2	0	0	**2**
BLANKS		40	25	36	25	**126**
TOTALS		**314**	**296**	**309**	**280**	**1199**

HOUSING AUTHORITY	*Vote for two*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
Marie Ciosek		9	7	5	1	**22**
David Fries		8	4	2	2	**16**
ALL OTHERS		13	18	6	8	**45**
BLANKS		598	563	605	549	**2315**
TOTALS		**628**	**592**	**618**	**560**	**2398**

SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION JUNE 17, 2024

SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION
BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS
June 17, 2024

BALLOT QUESTION:

Shall the Town of Belchertown be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to pay costs of the construction of the new 113,900 square foot Jabish Brook Middle School and adjacent athletic fields, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, located at 62 North Washington Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007, which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years.

	PRECINCT				
BALLOT QUESTION	A	B	C	D	TOTAL
YES	465	359	360	364	**1548**
NO	621	696	709	513	**2539**
BLANKS	0	0	0	1	**1**
TOTAL	**1086**	**1055**	**1069**	**878**	**4088**

REGISTERED VOTERS, BALLOTS CAST AND TURNOUT	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
REGISTERED VOTERS - REPUBLICAN	325	396	407	225	**1353**
REGISTERED VOTERS - DEMOCRATIC	691	599	613	787	**2690**
REGISTERED VOTERS - LIBERTARIAN	5	13	10	8	**36**
REGISTERED VOTERS - UNENROLLED	2039	2140	2040	1968	**8187**
REGISTERED VOTERS - OTHER	33	21	26	25	**105**
REGISTERED VOTERS - TOTAL	**3093**	**3169**	**3096**	**3013**	**12371**
BALLOTS CAST - TOTAL	**1086**	**1055**	**1069**	**878**	**4088**
PERCENTAGE OF VOTER TURNOUT	**35.1%**	**33.3%**	**34.5%**	**29.1%**	**33.0%**

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS
STATE PRIMARY ELECTION
September 3, 2024 - OFFICIAL RESULTS

REGISTERED VOTERS, BALLOTS CAST AND TURNOUT

	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
REGISTERED VOTERS - REPUBLICAN	324	411	406	224	**1365**
REGISTERED VOTERS - DEMOCRATIC	697	598	615	796	**2706**
REGISTERED VOTERS - LIBERTARIAN	5	13	10	7	**35**
REGISTERED VOTERS - UNENROLLED	2041	2185	2052	1976	**8254**
REGISTERED VOTERS - OTHER	34	22	25	22	**103**
REGISTERED VOTERS - TOTAL	**3101**	**3229**	**3108**	**3025**	**12463**
BALLOTS CAST - DEMOCRATIC	424	325	408	437	**1594**
BALLOTS CAST - REPUBLICAN	122	133	145	95	**495**
BALLOTS CAST - LIBERTARIAN	4	1	4	5	**14**
BALLOTS CAST - TOTAL	**550**	**459**	**557**	**537**	**2103**
PERCENTAGE OF VOTER TURNOUT	**17.7%**	**14.2%**	**17.9%**	**17.8%**	**16.9%**

DEMOCRATIC BALLOT

SENATOR IN CONGRESS *Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
ELIZABETH ANN WARREN	408	312	388	422	**1530**
ALL OTHERS	2	1	7	1	**11**
BLANKS	14	12	13	14	**53**
TOTALS	**424**	**325**	**408**	**437**	**1594**

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS *Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
RICHARD E. NEAL	394	315	392	420	**1521**
ALL OTHERS	6	1	5	0	**12**
BLANKS	24	9	11	17	**61**
TOTALS	**424**	**325**	**408**	**437**	**1594**

COUNCILLOR *Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
TARA J. JACOBS	378	285	359	400	**1422**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	2	0	**2**
BLANKS	46	40	47	37	**170**
TOTALS	**424**	**325**	**408**	**437**	**1594**

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT *Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
JACOB R. OLIVEIRA	402	314	393	421	**1530**
ALL OTHERS	0	1	1	0	**2**
BLANKS	22	10	14	16	**62**
TOTALS	**424**	**325**	**408**	**437**	**1594**

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT *Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
AARON L. SAUNDERS	390	300	384	418	**1492**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	1	0	**1**
BLANKS	34	25	23	19	**101**
TOTALS	**424**	**325**	**408**	**437**	**1594**

CLERK OF COURTS *Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
DANIEL R. CAREY	382	289	375	403	**1449**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	1	0	**1**
BLANKS	42	36	32	34	**144**
TOTALS	**424**	**325**	**408**	**437**	**1594**

REGISTER OF DEEDS *Vote for one*	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS

MARY K. OLBERDING	392	299	380	411	**1482**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	0	0	**0**
BLANKS	32	26	28	26	**112**
TOTALS	**424**	**325**	**408**	**437**	**1594**

REGISTER OF PROBATE (VACANCY) *Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
MARK SMITH AMES	381	287	364	397	**1429**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	0	0	**0**
BLANKS	43	38	44	40	**165**
TOTALS	**424**	**325**	**408**	**437**	**1594**

REPUBLICAN BALLOT

SENATOR IN CONGRESS *Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ROBERT J. ANTONELLIS	20	34	24	14	**92**
IAN CAIN	9	8	8	6	**31**
JOHN DEATON	90	88	112	74	**364**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	0	0	**0**
BLANKS	3	3	1	1	**8**
TOTALS	**122**	**133**	**145**	**95**	**495**

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS *Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS	0	1	1	2	**4**
BLANKS	122	132	144	93	**491**
TOTALS	**122**	**133**	**145**	**95**	**495**

COUNCILLOR *Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	1	2	**3**
BLANKS	122	133	144	93	**492**
TOTALS	**122**	**133**	**145**	**95**	**495**

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT *Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS	0	1	1	1	**3**
BLANKS	122	132	144	94	**492**
TOTALS	**122**	**133**	**145**	**95**	**495**

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT *Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS	1	0	1	0	**2**
BLANKS	121	133	144	95	**493**
TOTALS	**122**	**133**	**145**	**95**	**495**

CLERK OF COURTS *Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	1	0	**1**
BLANKS	122	133	144	95	**494**
TOTALS	**122**	**133**	**145**	**95**	**495**

REGISTER OF DEEDS *Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS	4	0	1	0	**5**
BLANKS	118	133	144	95	**490**
TOTALS	**122**	**133**	**145**	**95**	**495**

REGISTER OF PROBATE (VACANCY) *Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	1	0	**1**
BLANKS	122	133	144	95	**494**
TOTALS	**122**	**133**	**145**	**95**	**495**

LIBERTARIAN BALLOT

SENATOR IN CONGRESS *Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS	2	1	2	1	**6**
BLANKS	2	0	2	4	**8**
TOTALS	**4**	**1**	**4**	**5**	**14**

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	*Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS		2	0	2	1	**5**
BLANKS		2	1	2	4	**9**
TOTALS		**4**	**1**	**4**	**5**	**14**

COUNCILLOR	*Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS		1	0	2	1	**4**
BLANKS		3	1	2	4	**10**
TOTALS		**4**	**1**	**4**	**5**	**14**

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	*Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS		2	0	0	1	**3**
BLANKS		2	1	4	4	**11**
TOTALS		**4**	**1**	**4**	**5**	**14**

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	*Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS		2	0	0	1	**3**
BLANKS		2	1	4	4	**11**
TOTALS		**4**	**1**	**4**	**5**	**14**

CLERK OF COURTS	*Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS		1	0	0	1	**2**
BLANKS		3	1	4	4	**12**
TOTALS		**4**	**1**	**4**	**5**	**14**

REGISTER OF DEEDS	*Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS		2	0	0	1	**3**
BLANKS		2	1	4	4	**11**
TOTALS		**4**	**1**	**4**	**5**	**14**

REGISTER OF PROBATE (VACANCY)	*Vote for one*	**PRECINCT A**	**PRECINCT B**	**PRECINCT C**	**PRECINCT D**	**TOTALS**
ALL OTHERS		1	0	0	1	**2**
BLANKS		3	1	4	4	**12**
TOTALS		**4**	**1**	**4**	**5**	**14**

STATE ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2024

BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS
STATE ELECTION
November 5, 2024 - OFFICIAL RESULTS

REGISTERED VOTERS, BALLOTS CAST AND TURNOUT

	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
REGISTERED VOTERS - REPUBLICAN	335	427	413	233	**1408**
REGISTERED VOTERS - DEMOCRATIC	727	605	624	809	**2765**
REGISTERED VOTERS - LIBERTARIAN	5	12	10	9	**36**
REGISTERED VOTERS - UNENROLLED	2058	2194	2055	2004	**8311**
REGISTERED VOTERS - OTHER	34	24	25	23	**106**
REGISTERED VOTERS - TOTAL	**3159**	**3262**	**3127**	**3078**	**12626**

BALLOTS CAST - TOTAL	**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

PERCENTAGE OF VOTER TURNOUT	**75.9%**	**80.0%**	**78.3%**	**70.6%**	**76.3%**

ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Vote for one		PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
AYYADURAI and ELLIS	*Independent*	11	18	15	8	**52**
DE LA CRUZ and GARCIA	*Socialism and Liberation*	5	2	9	12	**28**
HARRIS and WALZ	*Democratic*	1477	1361	1361	1404	**5603**
OLIVER and TER MAAT	*Libertarian*	20	12	10	15	**57**
STEIN and CABALLERO-ROCA	*Green-Rainbow Party*	19	14	6	23	**62**
TRUMP and VANCE	*Republican*	834	1175	1026	685	**3720**
SONSKI and ONAK	*American Solidarity*	1	2	0	1	**4**
ALL OTHERS		0	0	9	2	**11**
BLANKS		32	27	13	22	**94**
TOTALS		**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

Vote for one		PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
ELIZABETH ANN WARREN	*Democratic*	1423	1285	1301	1381	**5390**
JOHN DEATON	*Republican*	931	1268	1104	741	**4044**
ALL OTHERS		0	5	5	5	**15**
BLANKS		45	53	39	45	**182**
TOTALS		**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

Vote for one		PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
RICHARD E. NEAL	*Democratic*	1436	1401	1398	1346	**5581**
NADIA DONYA MILLERON	*Independent/Unaffiliated*	783	1000	871	676	**3330**
ALL OTHERS		3	3	0	3	**9**
BLANKS		177	207	180	147	**711**
TOTALS		**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

COUNCILLOR

Vote for one		PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
TARA J. JACOBS	*Democratic*	1670	1785	1678	1533	**6666**
ALL OTHERS		4	9	0	9	**22**
BLANKS		725	817	771	630	**2943**
TOTALS		**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Vote for one		PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
JACOB R. OLIVEIRA	*Democratic*	1749	1890	1755	1609	**7003**
ALL OTHERS		5	8	0	5	**18**
BLANKS		645	713	694	558	**2610**
TOTALS		**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

Vote for one		PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS

AARON L. SAUNDERS	*Democratic*	1717	1877	1725	1592	**6911**
ALL OTHERS		5	8	0	6	**19**
BLANKS		677	726	724	574	**2701**
TOTALS		**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

CLERK OF COURTS

Vote for one		PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
DANIEL R. CAREY	*Democratic*	1674	1797	1689	1554	**6714**
ALL OTHERS		5	7	0	6	**18**
BLANKS		720	807	760	612	**2899**
TOTALS		**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Vote for one		PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
MARY K. OLBERDING	*Democratic*	1726	1838	1721	1567	**6852**
ALL OTHERS		3	9	0	6	**18**
BLANKS		670	764	728	599	**2761**
TOTALS		**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

REGISTER OF PROBATE

Vote for one		PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
MARK SMITH AMES	*Democratic*	1651	1775	1662	1510	**6598**
ALL OTHERS		4	8	0	6	**18**
BLANKS		744	828	787	656	**3015**
TOTALS		**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PATHFINDER REGIONAL (4 YEARS) - BELCHERTOWN

Vote for one	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
JOHN SULLIVAN	1601	1780	1716	1390	**6487**
ALL OTHERS	0	1	5	3	**9**
BLANKS	798	830	728	779	**3135**
TOTALS	**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PATHFINDER REGIONAL (4 YEARS) - PALMER

Vote for one	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
DAVID DROZ	1396	1581	1453	1201	**5631**
ALL OTHERS	0	0	1	0	**1**
BLANKS	1003	1030	995	971	**3999**
TOTALS	**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PATHFINDER REGIONAL (4 YEARS) - NEW BRAINTREE

Vote for one	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
MARTIN GOULET	1342	1530	1399	1168	**5439**
ALL OTHERS	0	1	0	0	**1**
BLANKS	1057	1080	1050	1004	**4191**
TOTALS	**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PATHFINDER REGIONAL (4 YEARS) - OAKHAM

Vote for one	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
WRITE-IN Richard John Olson, III	2	3	2	0	**7**
WRITE-IN Patricia O'Connor	4	6	0	2	**12**
WRITE-IN all others	0	0	4	1	**5**
BLANKS	2393	2602	2443	2169	**9607**
TOTALS	**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PATHFINDER REGIONAL (4 YEARS) - WARE

Vote for one	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
RICHARD FLY	1302	1491	1344	1141	**5278**

WRITE-IN all others	0	0	3	1	**4**
BLANKS	1097	1120	1102	1030	**4349**
TOTALS	**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

QUESTION 1

LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

This proposed law would specifiy that the State Auditor has the authority to audit the Legislature.

A YES VOTE *would specify that the State Auditor has the authority to audit the Legislature.*

A NO VOTE *would make no change in the law relative to the State Auditor's authority.*

	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
YES	1535	1727	1569	1376	**6207**
NO	698	701	712	606	**2717**
BLANKS	166	183	168	190	**707**
TOTALS	**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

QUESTION 2

LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests (or other statewide or district-wide assessments) in mathematics, science and technology, and English in order to receive a high school diploma. Instead, in order for a student to receive a high school diploma, the proposed law would require the student to complete coursework certified by the student's district as demonstrating mastery of the competencies contained in the state academic standards in mathematics, science and technology, and English, as well as any additional areas determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

A YES VOTE *would eliminate the requirement that students pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to graduate high school but still require students to complete coursework that meets state standards.*

A NO VOTE *would make no change in the law relative to the requirement that a student pass the MCAS in order to graduate high school.*

	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
YES	1553	1747	1641	1506	**6447**
NO	794	800	738	606	**2938**
BLANKS	52	64	70	60	**246**
TOTALS	**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

QUESTION 3

LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

The proposed law states that neither its provisions, an agreement nor a determination by the Secretary would be able to lessen labor standards established by other laws. If there were any conflict between the proposed law and existing Massachusetts labor relations law, the proposed law would prevail.

The Board would make rules and regulations as appropriate to effectuate the proposed law.

The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

The proposed law would provide Transportation Network Drivers ("Drivers") with the right to form unions ("Driver Organizations") to collectively bargain with Transportation Network Companies ("Companies")-which are companies that use a digital network to connect riders to drivers for pre-arranged transportation-to create negotiated recommendations concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Drivers would not be required to engage in any union activities. Companies would be allowed to form multi-Company associations to represent them when negotiating with Driver Organizations. The state would supervise the labor activities permitted by the proposed law and would have responsibility for approving or disapproving the negotiated recommendations.

The proposed law would define certain activities by a Company or a Driver Organization to be unfair work practices. The proposed law would establish a hearing process for the state Employment Relations Board ("Board") to follow when a Company or Driver Organization is charged with an unfair work practice. The proposed law would permit the Board to take action, including awarding compensation to adversely affected Drivers, if it found that an unfair work practice had been committed. The proposed law would provide for an appeal of a Board decision to the state Appeals Court.

This proposed law also would establish a procedure for determining which Drivers are Active Drivers, meaning that they completed more than the median number of rides in the previous six months. The proposed law would establish procedures for the Board to determine that a Driver Organization has signed authorizations from at least five percent of Active Drivers, entitling the Driver Organization to a list of Active Drivers; to designate a Driver Organization as the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers based on signed authorizations from at least twenty-five percent of Active Drivers; to resolve disputes over exclusive bargaining status, including through elections; and to decertify a Driver Organization from exclusive bargaining status. A Driver Organization that has been designated the exclusive bargaining representative would have the exclusive right to represent the Drivers and to receive voluntary membership dues deductions.

Once the Board determined that a Driver Organization was the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers, the Companies would be required to bargain with that Driver Organization concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Once the Driver Organization and Companies reached agreement on wages, benefits, and the terms and conditions of work, that agreement would be voted upon by all Drivers who has completed at least 100 trips the previous quarter. If approved by a majority of votes cast, the recommendations would be submitted to the state Secretary of Labor for approval and if approved, would be effective for three years. The proposed law would establish procedures for the mediation and arbitration if the Driver Organization and Companies failed to reach agreement within a certain period of time. An arbitrator would consider factors set forth in the proposed law, including whether the wages of Drivers would be enough so that Drivers would not need to rely upon any public benefits. The proposed law also sets out procedures for the Secretary of Labor's review and approval of recommendations negotiated by a Driver Organization and the Companies and for judicial review of the Secretary's decision.

The proposed law states that neither its provisions, an agreement nor a determination by the Secretary would be able to lessen labor standards established by other laws. If there were any conflict between the proposed law and existing Massachusetts labor relations law, the proposed law would prevail.
The Board would make rules and regulations as appropriate to effectuate the proposed law.
The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

***A YES VOTE** would provide transportation network drivers the option to form unions to collectively bargain with transportation network companies regarding wages, benefits, and terms and conditions of work.*

***A NO VOTE** would make no change in the law relative to the ability of transportation network drivers to form unions.*

	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
YES	1286	1328	1197	1240	**5051**
NO	997	1134	1115	804	**4050**
BLANKS	116	149	137	128	**530**
TOTALS	**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

QUESTION 4

LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

This proposed law would allow persons aged 21 and older to grow, possess, and use certain natural psychedelic substances in certain circumstances. The psychedelic substances allowed would be two substances found in mushrooms (psilocybin and psilocyn) and three substances found in plants (dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and ibogaine). These substances could be purchased at an approved location for use under the supervision of a licensed facilitator. This proposed law would otherwise prohibit any retail sale of natural psychedelic substances. This proposed law would also provide for the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances.

This proposed law would license and regulate facilities offering supervised use of these psychedelic substances and provide for the taxation of proceeds from those facilities' sales of psychedelic substances. It would also allow persons aged 21 and older to grow these psychedelic substances in a 12-foot by 12-foot area at their home and use these psychedelic substances at their home. This proposed law would authorize persons aged 21 or older to possess up to one gram of psilocybin, one gram of psilocyn, one gram of dimethyltryptamine, 18 grams of mescaline, and 30 grams of ibogaine ("personal use amount"), in addition to whatever they might grow at their home, and to give away up to the personal use amount to a person aged 21 or over.
This proposed law would create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Commission of five members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would administer the law governing the use and distribution of these psychedelic substances. The Commission would adopt regulations governing licensing qualifications, security, recordkeeping, education and training, health and safety requirements, testing, and age verification. This proposed law would also create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Advisory Board of 20 members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would study and make recommendations to the Commission on the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances.
This proposed law would allow cities and towns to reasonably restrict the time, place, and manner of the operation of licensed facilities offering
This proposed law would not affect existing laws regarding the operation of motor vehicles while under the influence, or the ability of employers to enforce workplace policies restricting the consumption of these psychedelic substances by employees. This proposed law would allow property owners to prohibit the use, display, growing, processing, or sale of these psychedelic substances on their premises. State and local governments could continue to restrict the possession and use of these psychedelic substances in public buildings or at schools.
This proposed law would take effect on December 15, 2024.

***A YES VOTE** would allow persons over age 21 to use certain natural psychedelic substances under licensed supervision and to grow and possess limited quantities of those substances in their home, and would create a commission to regulate those substances.*

***A NO VOTE** would make no change in the law regarding natural psychedelic substances.*

	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
YES	998	1050	853	1022	**3923**
NO	1321	1473	1506	1057	**5357**
BLANKS	80	88	90	93	**351**
TOTALS	**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

QUESTION 5

LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

This proposed law would gradually increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker, over the course of five years, on the following schedule:

- *To 64% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2025;*
- *To 73% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2026;*
- *To 82% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2027;*
- *To 91% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2028; and*
- *To 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029.*

The proposed law would require employers to continue to pay tipped workers the difference between the state minimum wage and the total amount a tipped worker receives in hourly wages plus tips through the end of 2028. The proposed law would also permit employers to calculate this difference over the entire weekly or bi-weekly payroll period. The requirement to pay this difference would cease when the required hourly wage for tipped workers would become 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029.

Under the proposed law, if an employer pays its workers an hourly wage that is at least the state minimum wage, the employer would be permitted to administer a "tip pool" that combines all the tips given by customers to tipped workers and distributes them among all the workers, including non-tipped workers.

A YES VOTE *would increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker to the full state minimim wage implemented over the five years, at which point employers could pool all tips and distribute them to all non-management workers.*

A NO VOTE *would make no change in the law governing tip pooling or the minimum wage for tipped workers.*

	PRECINCT A	PRECINCT B	PRECINCT C	PRECINCT D	TOTALS
YES	836	815	665	814	**3130**
NO	1486	1717	1703	1275	**6181**
BLANKS	77	79	81	83	**320**
TOTALS	**2399**	**2611**	**2449**	**2172**	**9631**

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES MAY 13, 2024

Actions taken at the Special Town Meeting held May 13, 2024 at the Belchertown High School Auditorium
FY24
Moderator – Benjamin Farrell
Meeting called to order at 7:06pm
Registered voters present - 102 (Quorum requires 75)
The return of the warrant was read.

Article 1 Voted to transfer the sums of money as outlined below:

TRANSFER FROM	AMOUNT	TO
Town Accountant Wage	$1,992.00	Library Salary
Town Accountant Wage	$5,000.00	Police Chief Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$354.00	Town Clerk Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$406.00	IT Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$405.00	Planning Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$388.00	Town Accountant Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$388.00	Building Inspector Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$388.00	Assessors Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$388.00	Human Resources Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$364.00	Council on Aging Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$372.00	Recreation Department Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$294.00	Conservation Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$344.00	Veterans' Agent Salary
Town Clerk Wage	$387.00	Police Salary
Highway Department Salary	$31,000.00	Law Account
Treasurer/Collector Wage	$4,000.00	Law Account
Town Admin Salary	$2,000.00	Animal Control Expense
Family Center Building	$12,000.00	Lawrence Memorial Hall Expense
Council on Aging Wage	$15,000.00	Police Station
Highway Uniforms	$3,800.00	Recreation Building
Street Lighting	$1,000.00	Highway Administration
IT Wage	$8,250.00	Treasurer Expense
Assessors Wage	$13,000.00	Road Machinery
Street Lighting	$1,000.00	Freedom Center

(Finance Committee voted 4-0-0 in favor)
(Vote – Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 2 Voted to transfer the sum of $3,692.59 from the Town Common account to pay the following bill(s) of a prior year:

- KP Law, P.C.

(Vote – 9/10 required – 9/10 Majority counted)

Article 3 Voted to appropriate from free cash in the Treasury the sum of $154,442.35 to the "Opioid Settlement" special revenue fund.
(Vote – Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 4 Voted to accept the fourth paragraph of Mass General Law Chapter 41, s. 111F, creating a special injury leave indemnity fund, and beginning in fiscal year 2024.
(Vote – Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to dissolve the meeting at 7:21pm
(Vote – Majority Required – Majority counted)

Attest:

Theresa A. Camerlin
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING HELD MAY 13, 2024
FY 24

ARTICLE #	BUDGET OR DEPT	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	FROM TAX LEVY	BORROWING	FREE CASH	FROM STABILIZATION	FROM OTHER AVAIL FUNDS
1	Library Salary	$1,992.00					$1,992.00 from Town Accountant Wage
	Police Chief Salary	$5,000.00					$5,000.00 from Town Accountant Wage
	Town Clerk Salary	$354.00					$354.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	IT Salary	$406.00					$406.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	Planning Salary	$405.00					$405.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	Town Accountant Salary	$388.00					$388.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	Building Inspector Salary	$388.00					$388.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	Assessors Salary	$388.00					$388.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	Human Resources Salary	$388.00					$388.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	Council on Aging Salary	$364.00					$364.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	Recreation Department Salary	$372.00					$372.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	Conservation Salary	$294.00					$294.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	Veteran's Agent Salary	$344.00					$344.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	Police Salary	$387.00					$387.00 from Town Clerk Wage
	Law Account	$31,000.00					$31.000.00 from Highway Department Salary
	Law Account	$4,000.00					$4,000.00 from Treasurer/Collector Wage
	Animal Control Expense	$2,000.00					$2,000.00 from Town Admin. Salary
	Lawrence Memorial Hall Expense	$12,000.00					$12,000.00 from Family Center Building
	Police Station	$15,000.00		$106,212.59			$15,000.00 from Council on Aging Wage
	Recreation Building	$3,800.00					$3,800.00 from Highway Uniforms
	Highway Administration	$1,000.00					$1,000.00 from Street Lighting
	Treasurer Expense	$8,250.00					$8,250.00 from IT Wage
	Road Machinery	$13,000.00					$13,000.00 from Assessors Wage
	Freedom Center	$1,000.00					$1,000.00 from Street Lighting
2	KP Law, PC -Bills of a prior year	$3,692.59					$3,692.59 from Town Common
3	Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund	$154,442.35			$154,442.35		
4	none						
TOTAL		**$260,654.94**	**$0.00**	**$106,212.59**	**$154,442.35**	**$0.00**	**$106,212.59**
	Attest:						
	Theresa A. Camerlin, Town Clerk						

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES MAY 13, 2024

Actions taken at the Annual Town Meeting held May 13, 2024 at the Belchertown High School Auditorium.
FY 2025
Moderator – Benjamin Farrell
Meeting called to order at 7:30pm
Registered voters present - 176 (Quorum requires 75)

The Belchertown Girl Scouts presented the colors and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem was sung by Mr. Thomas Stockton.

Return of the warrant was read.

Motion made, seconded and declared unanimous to waive the reading of the warrant articles.

Article 1 Voted to elect Paul Anziano and Linda Tsoumas as Almoners of the Whiting Street and Mrs. Susan M.D. Bridgman Funds, each for one year; Richard Prager for a two year term and Kenneth Snow for a three year term as Trustees of the Calvin Bridgman Fund.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 2 Voted to accept the reports of the officers of the Town with the exception of the Finance Committee.

(Vote - Majority required – Unanimous counted)

Article 3 Voted to authorize the Assessors and the Board of Health members to appoint themselves to work in their various departments for the ensuing fiscal year, at the following hourly rates:

➢ Assessors	$17.50
➢ Board of Health Members	$ 7.25

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 4 Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $100.00 to be used by the Assessors for legal counsel in resolving tax cases.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 5 Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $30,000.00, and appropriate from free cash in the treasury the sum of $125,000.00, for a total of $155,000.00 to the Reserve Fund for use by the Finance Committee.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 6 Voted to authorize the Select Board to apply for and accept funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Improvement Program or any other state grant program for use on approved town ways.

(Vote - Majority required – Unanimous counted)

Article 7 Voted to appropriate from the Sale of Cemetery Lots Account the sum of $5,000.00 to the Cemetery Lot Development Account.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

At 7:49pm, the Moderator declared a 5 minute recess to address clicker voting adjustments for Article 8 subsections. 7:55pm, meeting resumed.

Article 8 Voted to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town, as provided for by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, as shown in the Finance Committee's report; to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds in the Treasury for departmental and incidental expenses of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year; and that the various major categories of the budget as contained in the Finance Committee's report be considered separately and acted upon; and further that these sums of money granted and appropriated for the several specific purposes therein designated, be expended only for those purposes as specifically designated and under the direction of the respective officers, boards and committees of the Town.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,092,535.00 and appropriate from free cash in the Treasury the sum of $346,487.00 for a total appropriation of $2,439,022.00 for General Government, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $4,196,864.00 and appropriate the sum of $1,290,000.00 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account for a total appropriation of $5,486,864.00 for Public Safety, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 3-0-1)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $32,376,926.00, and appropriate from free cash in the Treasury the sum of $808,470.00 for a total appropriation of $33,185,396.00 for the Town School Department, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,589,589.00 for the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Not endorsed by Finance Committee 1-3-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,271,334.00 for DPW-Highways, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to appropriate from Landfill receipts the sum of $360,000.00 and appropriate from Landfill Enterprise free cash in the Treasury the sum of $56,911.00 for a total appropriation of $416,911.00 to the Landfill Enterprise Fund, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to appropriate from Sewer Enterprise receipts the sum of $1,520,000.00 and appropriate from Sewer Enterprise free cash in the Treasury the sum of $104,262.00, for a total appropriation of $1,624,262.00, to the Sewer Enterprise Fund, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to appropriate from Storm Water Utility Enterprise receipts the sum of $220,000.00, and appropriate from Storm Water Enterprise free cash in the Treasury the sum of $82,351.00 for a total appropriation of $302,351.00 to the Storm Water Utility Enterprise Fund, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,000,342.00 for the Human Services Departments, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,004,441.00 for Culture and Recreation Departments, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting. (Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $980,665.00 for DPW Buildings and Grounds Departments, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting. (Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $6,739,291.00 to the Pensions and Insurance Accounts, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting. (Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $84,098.00 to the Unclassified Accounts, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.
(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $931,333.00 to the Interest and Debt Accounts, each item and amount recommended in the Finance Committee's report being considered as a separate appropriation voted by Town Meeting.
(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 9 Voted to appropriate from free cash in the Treasury the sum of $187,681.00 for the following one-time and/or capital items and anything incidental or related thereto:

Item #	Description	Amount
1.	TORO ZTR Mower with Accessories, purchase and equip	$21,500
2.	20' Trailer, purchase and equip	$10,000
3.	Leaf Vac	$8,100
4.	LMH Carpet Replacement	$9,505
5.	Fire Station, Senior Center & Recreation Building Doors, includes 1 opener	$28,200
6.	Finnerty House Storm Windows	$5,000
7.	Finnerty House HVAC	$17,300
8.	Automotive Lift with 16,000# Capacity	$35,000
9.	Three Point Hitch Mounted Offset Mower, purchase and equip	$31,000
10.	Fire Station Living Quarters	$22,076
	Total	$187,681

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 10 Voted to appropriate from free cash in the Treasury the sum of $86,622.00 to the Stabilization Fund.
(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 11 Voted to appropriate $1,000,000.00 to pay costs of replacing the generator and the SCADA system at the wastewater treatment plant, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote – 2/3rd required – 2/3rd counted)

Article 12 Voted to amend the Code of the Town of Belchertown, Chapter 91, Personnel, as previously amended, in the following prescribed manner:

- **In Chapter** ***91, Attachment 1*****, Appendix A, Town Classification-Compensation Plan:**
    - **Under Part-Time Hourly Schedule:** **Amend the following:**
        - Meals on Wheels Driver from $7.25-$9.25/hour to $9.50-$11.50/hour
    - **Replace** Management, Administrative or Professional Exempt chart with new chart, including one new positions shown in **bold**, as follows:

Effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Director of Public Works	$101,686 - $129,809
Fire Department Deputy Chief	$88,735 - $102,982
Police Lieutenant	$88,735 - $102,982
Director of Information Technology	$84,739 - $108,174
Town Planner	$84,739 - $108,174
Town Treasurer-Collector	$80,704 - $103,023
Town Accountant	$80,704 - $103,023
Building Commissioner	$80,704 - $103,023
Director of Assessments	$80,704 - $103,023
Human Resource Director	$80,704 - $103,023
Conservation Administrator	$77,599 - $99,060
Council on Aging Executive Director	$77,599 - $99,060
Director of Parks & Recreation	$77,599 - $99,060
General Manager, BCTV	**$77,599 - $99,060**
Veterans' Agent	$74,615 - $95,250
BCTV Executive Director	$74,615 - $95,250

- **Under Classified Nonexempt Employees:**
    - **Insert:** Police Grants Clerk: Grade 4
    - **Insert:** Grants Coordinator/Purchasing Agent: Grade 9
    - **Insert:** Communications Manager: Grade 10
    -
- **In Chapter 91,** ***Attachment 2*****, Appendix B – Weekly Salary Schedule for Classified Employees:**

- **Remove** the compensation chart effective July 1, 2023 to end June 30, 2024 and insert the following chart:

Effective July 1, 2023 to end June 30, 2024

Grade	**Step 1**	**Step 2**	**Step 3**	**Step 4**	**Step 5**	**Step 6**	**Step 7**	**Step 8**	**Step 9**	**Step 10**
1	13.23	13.60	13.97	14.34	14.73	15.16	15.56	15.99	16.44	16.89
2	17.19	17.67	18.16	18.67	19.17	19.70	20.24	20.79	21.37	21.97
3	19.78	20.33	20.89	21.46	22.05	22.65	23.28	23.92	24.57	25.24
4	22.73	23.36	24.00	24.66	25.35	26.05	26.78	27.50	28.26	29.02
5	25.03	25.70	26.42	27.14	27.87	28.65	29.45	30.24	31.11	31.94
6	27.53	28.27	29.04	29.87	30.68	31.51	32.38	33.28	34.18	35.13
7	30.27	31.12	31.96	32.84	33.73	34.67	35.63	36.60	37.60	38.65
8	31.48	32.35	33.23	34.14	35.10	36.06	37.05	38.07	39.11	40.20
9	32.75	33.66	34.56	35.52	36.49	37.51	38.54	39.59	40.68	41.81
10	35.04	35.98	36.99	38.02	39.04	40.13	41.24	42.37	43.54	44.73

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 13 Voted to amend the Code of the Town of Belchertown, Chapter 91, Personnel, as previously amended, as shown below, to address the Town Manager's personnel management responsibilities as set forth in the Town Manager Act, Chapter 44 of the Acts of 2024, with additions shown in **bold** and deletions shown in ~~strikethrough~~:

§91-2. Applicability; collective bargaining; equal opportunity

A. This chapter shall be applicable to all persons in the service or employment of the Town of Belchertown, except officials elected by popular vote, members of collective bargaining units, the Town **Manager** ~~Administrator~~, Police Chief, Library Director, Fire Chief and persons under the direction and control of the School Committee. Each person covered hereby shall receive the rate of pay and be subject to the provisions set forth in this chapter as determined to be applicable to him/her by the Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ hereinafter established.

B. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to be in conflict with MGL c. 31, if applicable, or c. 150E. If a provision of this chapter shall be construed in its application to conflict with either of these statutes, the provisions of either or both of the statutes shall prevail.

C. It shall be the policy of the Town of Belchertown to provide equal opportunity to all qualified applicants and to all employees with respect to initial appointment, advancement, compensation and general working conditions without regard to age, as defined by law, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, as defined by law, genetic information, religion or any other legally protected class.

§ 91-3. Personnel **Director** ~~**Board.**~~

~~There shall be a Personnel Board, consisting of five members to be appointed by the Town Moderator, each member to serve for a three-year term, expiring on June 30 of the third fiscal year after their appointment, except that effective on July 1, 1995, one member shall be appointed for a two-year term and two members for a three-year term. Any vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Moderator. The members shall serve without compensation. The Personnel Board shall elect a Chairman and a Clerk~~. **The Town Manager shall act as the Personnel Director. The Personnel Director shall have the following authority.**

~~A. No person in the employ of or holding an official position in the Town government shall be eligible for appointment to the Personnel Board.~~

A. ~~B.~~ The Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ has the conclusive authority to interpret this chapter and to decide all questions relating to its application. The Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ shall make policies and issue regulations deemed necessary for the administration of this chapter.

B. ~~C.~~ The Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ shall classify new positions until the next Annual or Special Town Meeting. Whenever the duties of any position become altered so as to warrant a change in its classification, the **Personnel Director** ~~Board~~ shall act to change such classification, which shall be temporary until approved at the next Annual or Special Town Meeting.

C. ~~D.~~ In case of emergency or operational necessity, the **Personnel Director** ~~Board~~ shall have the authority to fix the rates of pay and hours of work of employees, notwithstanding the limiting provisions of this chapter.

D. ~~E.~~ The Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ shall act as **the final arbiter of grievances** ~~the Board of Appeals~~ as specified in § 91-7, ~~to hear the grievances~~ not covered by formal collective bargaining agreements.

§ 91-4. Classification of positions; compensation plan; Classification Appeals Committee.

A. There shall be established a Classification Appeals Committee comprised of **three** ~~five~~ members consisting of ~~the Town Administrator,~~ the Town Accountant, **a member of the human resources office, and a department head from a department other than the position in which the position under Appeal works** ~~one member of the Select Board to be selected by that Board, and two members of the Personnel Board to be selected by that Board~~. The Classification Appeals Committee shall be appointed as needed by the **Personnel Director** ~~Select Board~~.

B. All appeals must be submitted in writing on the form approved by the **Personnel Director** ~~Select Board~~ and in accordance with the policy, procedures and deadlines established by the **Personnel Director** ~~Select Board~~ and currently in effect.

C. The Committee shall review all properly submitted appeals. The Committee may conduct interviews and hold such hearings as the Committee deems necessary to render a decision on the facts and merits of the appeal. The Committee may recommend an adjustment of classification not to exceed two grade levels.

D. The Committee will issue to the **Personnel Director** ~~Select Board~~ a report of its findings and recommendations. Implementation of the Committee's findings shall be **subject to the approval of the Personnel Director. If granted, the appeal shall be** retroactive to the date **it** ~~the appeal~~ was filed.

~~E. The decision of the Classification Appeals Committee shall be final and not subject to further appeal.~~

§ 91-5. Hours of work; overtime.

A. Hours of work. For all full-time employees covered hereby, the hours of work shall be as follows:

(1) For employees classified in Appendix A as management, administrative or professional employees, full-time nonexempt employees and Senior Services employees, the payroll work week shall be Friday through Thursday. Full-time nonexempt employees shall be required to work a forty-hour workweek.

(2) The foregoing provisions do not apply to part-time employees.

(3) In the best interest of the Town, any department head or supervising committee may require an employee to work less than 40 hours per week, provided that the employee's weekly compensation is reduced accordingly.

B. Overtime. All full-time employees covered hereby, except those classified as exempt, shall be eligible for overtime compensation as follows:

(1) Employees classified in Appendix A as nonexempt who are required to work in excess of 40 hours in a seven-calendar-day work period, Friday through Thursday, shall be compensated at the rate of time and one-half for all hours worked in excess of 40.

(2) Employees classified as management, administrative management/professional and administrative professional in Appendix A are not eligible to receive overtime compensation. Salaried employees are expected to work the number of hours required to perform the duties assigned to them.

(3) Part-time employees shall be compensated at the rate of time and one-half for all hours in excess of 40 in a seven-calendar-day work period, Friday through Thursday.

(4) An employee, after having completed his/her assigned work and having left his/her place of employment, called back to work for an emergency or public safety situation by his/her supervisor prior to his/her next regular scheduled starting time will be guaranteed a minimum of three hours pay between April 1st and October 31st, and three and one half (3 ½) hours pay between November 1st and March 31st. Recall pay is not intended to apply when an employee works extra hours that merge into his/her regular work shift. Therefore, recall pay is not available when an employee is called to report to duty before the start of his regularly scheduled shift and he/she works until the regular shift commences. Recall pay is not available when an employee is held over to work after the completion of his/her regular shift.

§ 91-6. Employee benefits.

A. Eligibility.

(1) Employees who are regularly scheduled to work 35 hours or more per week shall be considered full-time employees and shall be eligible for the benefits under Subsection B, Benefits, upon the completion of 30 calendar days of employment. Benefit pay for full-time employees shall be prorated based on the average number of regularly scheduled hours worked in a week by the individual employee.

(2) Employees who are regularly scheduled to work 20 or greater hours per week, but less than 35 shall be eligible for benefits under Subsection B, Benefits, upon the completion of 30 calendar days employment as follows:

(a) They shall receive the same insurance and retirement benefits as full-time employees.

(b) For all other benefits they shall receive an amount in proportion to the relationship of their normal workweek to that of a full-time employee. Seasonal employees are not eligible for benefits.

(3) Part-time employees that are regularly scheduled to work less than 20 hours per week are not eligible for the benefits outlined in Subsection A(1) of this section.

B. Benefits:

(1) Sick leave. All regular full-time and eligible part-time employees covered by this chapter shall be eligible for sick leave with pay as follows:

(a) Sick leave with pay shall be earned at the rate of 1¼ days per month of full-time employment during the first year of employment and thereafter to a maximum accumulation of 180 days. Accumulation in excess of 180 days shall be forfeited.

(b) Absences on account of sickness in excess of that authorized under this section, or for personal reasons not provided herein may, at the discretion of the Department Head, be charged to vacation with the approval of the employee.

(c) For the protection of the Town, the Department Head may require the presentation of a doctor's certificate in connection with a claim for sick leave, and may, if it is deemed advisable, send a doctor to investigate any absence alleged to be caused by illness. If such a certificate of hospital or doctor's records are not filed with the Department Head after request thereof, such absence shall not be chargeable to sick leave.

(d) Subsequent certificates may be required at the discretion of the Department Head, before or at the time of returning to work to determine if the employee is physically fit. If such a certificate of hospital or doctor's records are not filed with the Department Head after request thereof, such absence shall not be chargeable to sick leave.

(e) Employees having sick leave credit who are injured on the job and receiving workers' compensation shall, upon request, be granted such sick leave allowance payment as will, when added to the amount of the workers' compensation, result in the payment to them of their full salary in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 152 of the General Laws. The total dollar value in work days shall be charged to sick leave credits accordingly.

(f) All regular employees covered by this chapter and meeting the following qualifications shall receive $12 per day for up to 180 days of unused accumulated sick leave in Belchertown during his/her final year.

[1] Employees must be retiring after 15 years of service with the Town of Belchertown.

[2] Must have at least 100 days of unused accumulative sick leave.

[3] Must advise the Department Head at least 60 calendar days in advance of his/her intention to retire, unless retirement is for medical reasons or is directly related to a reduction of the work force.

(g) Sick Leave Bank.

[1] Establishment of a Sick Leave Bank

[a] A Sick Leave Bank Committee will be established and composed of five members: **the Personnel Director** ~~one Personnel Board member, to be appointed by the Chairman of the Personnel Board~~; **one employee from the human resources office**, ~~one Select Board member, to be appointed by the Chairman of the Select Board~~; two Personnel Bylaw employees; not more than one department head from the same department, to be appointed by the **Personnel Director** ~~Town Administrator~~; and the Town Accountant or his/her designee.

[b] Upon the establishment of the Sick Leave Bank, employees wishing to participate shall agree to donate three sick leave days to the bank within 45 days of its establishment.

[2] Decisions of the Sick Leave Bank Committee shall not be subject to the grievance procedure.

[3] No payment from the Sick Leave Bank shall be made except on a regular warrant approved by the **Town Manager** ~~Select Board~~.

[4] Request forms to use the Sick Leave Bank may be obtained **from human resources** ~~in the Town Administrator's~~ office and should be submitted there. Responses will be sent through the **human resources** ~~Town Administrator's~~ office to the members of the **Sick Leave Bank Committee employee** ~~involved, Personnel Board, Select Board and the Town Accountant~~.

[5] If a member of the Sick Leave Bank uses all of his/her sick time due to illness or other permissible use and has exhausted all of his/her personal and vacation time, he/she may receive additional sick leave days from the Sick Leave Bank for legitimate reasons, as deemed by the Committee, until such time as he/she accrues more sick leave days of his/her own or exceeds the limits defined below.

[a] Each eligible, benefited employee covered by this chapter may become a member of the Sick Leave Bank by donating three sick leave days to the bank within 45 calendar days of his/her permanent, benefited employment under this chapter (after the six-month probationary period). Each member of the Sick Leave Bank will also agree to donate three additional days at the beginning of each fiscal year thereafter, plus any days assessed by the Sick Leave Bank Committee. A member may cease membership with the bank for a subsequent fiscal year by giving written notice to the Sick Leave Bank Committee and the Town Accountant by June 15 prior to the beginning of that fiscal year.

[b] Each member of the Sick Leave Bank may receive up to 30 days of sick leave from the bank per fiscal year upon approval of the Sick Leave Bank Committee. Additional days of sick leave from the bank may be granted by a majority vote of the membership of the Sick Leave Bank. If it is not feasible to receive this approval or vote prior to a member's absence, the Town Accountant may withhold the Sick Leave Bank of the employee for the days in question until such time as a decision has been made. If the Sick Leave Bank Committee or membership approves, the days shall be deducted from the bank's total, and the employee shall be paid his/her Sick Leave Bank in full for the days in question.

[c] If the number of sick leave days in the bank are depleted below 60 days, up to three additional days for the bank may be assessed each member. No more than six days may be assessed in any one fiscal year.

[d] If the sick leave days in the bank equal or exceed 300 days at the end of the fiscal year, the past members of the bank will not be required to donate any additional days to maintain membership for the following fiscal year.

[e] If an employee who once decided not to join the Sick Leave Bank decides to join in a subsequent year, his/her initial donation to the bank must equal the total number of days that he/she would have donated to the bank through the years had he/she joined initially. In no case will this initial donation exceed 15 days.

[f] No member of the Sick Leave Bank will be denied continuation of membership in the bank because he/she has no sick leave days of his/her own to donate to the bank when additional assessments are made for the bank. His/her assessment will be made up at the beginning of the following fiscal year.

[g] On September 1 of each fiscal year, the Sick Leave Bank Committee will inform the Town Accountant's office in writing of the number of sick leave days donated by each member to the bank and the number of days accrued by the bank itself according to its records. The Town Accountant's office will advise, in writing, the Sick Leave Bank Committee of the number of sick days accumulated by each member.

[h] All sick leave days accrued by a member of the Sick Leave Bank over and above the maximum number of sick leave days accruable according to this chapter (currently 180 days) shall automatically be placed in the Sick Leave Bank at the beginning of each fiscal year.

[6] The granting of sick leave from the bank shall be subject to the same criteria as regular sick leave days and shall be in all other respects consistent with the Town of Belchertown's sick leave policy; provided, however, that such sick leave shall be available only for the illness of the Town employee and not for illness of his/her family.

[7] Employees who are receiving workers' compensation provided by statute shall not be eligible to apply for sick leave from the bank.

[8] Days donated to the Sick Leave Bank shall not count against sick leave used for the purpose of receiving an additional personal day as outlined in Subsection B(7), Personal Leave.

(2) Vacation.

(a) All regular full-time employees and eligible part-time employees covered by this chapter shall be eligible for vacation leave to be credited on their anniversary date of each month as follows:

[1] Less than and including five years completed service as of the employee's anniversary date of the month, 5/6 day per full calendar month employed during that twelve-month period.

[2] More than five through and including 10 years completed service as of the employee's anniversary date of the month, 1¼ days per full calendar month employed during that twelve-month period.

[3] More than 10 years completed service as of the employee's anniversary date of the month, 1 2/3 days per full calendar month employed during the twelve-month period.

[4] More than 20 years completed service as of the employee's anniversary date, add one day per year over 20 years to a maximum of 25 days at 25 years.

(b) Vacation leave shall be granted by the appropriate department head of the Town at such time as in his opinion will cause the least interference with the regular work of the Town.

(c) Vacation leave should be used prior to the employee's next anniversary date. Vacation leave may be accumulated for two years with the prior written permission of the appropriate Department Head and the Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~. Any accumulated vacation not taken prior to the granted extension will be forfeited.

(d) Employees eligible for vacation leave, whose services are terminated by dismissal, resignation, retirement or the entrance into the armed forces shall be paid for their accrued vacation.

(e) Upon the death of an employee eligible for vacation leave, payment shall be made to the estate or heirs of the deceased for their accrued vacation.

(3) Holidays.

(a) All full-time and eligible part-time employees shall receive holiday pay for the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Patriot's Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth Independence Day (June 19th), Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving, ½ day before Christmas, Christmas Day, ½ day on New Year's Eve and a floating holiday, notwithstanding the thirty-day eligibility period.

(b) The Town expressly reserves the right to call in employees to meet its operational needs or in the event of an emergency.

(c) An employee that is required to work on a holiday shall be paid at 1½ times his or her base hourly rate for all hours actually worked in addition to his or her holiday pay. An employee who actually works on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, or Presidents' Day shall receive compensation at two times the employee's base hourly rate for all hours actually worked. In the alternative, an employee that is required to work on a holiday may, with the approval of his or her supervisor, receive a special holiday leave for each eight hours worked. Special holiday leave earned for working on a holiday must be used in the same fiscal year in which it was earned.

(4) Insurance. All regular employees who work a minimum of 20 hours per week, 52 weeks per year, are eligible to participate in the Town's health and life insurance programs.

(a) Health insurance is available with the Town paying a percentage of the premium.

(b) A life insurance policy of $5,000 is available with the Town paying a percentage of the premium.

(c) The Town expressly reserves the right to alter, amend or change all insurance benefits without notice, subject to its collective bargaining obligations.

(5) Retirement. All regular employees who work a minimum of 20 hours per week, 52 weeks per year, must become members of the Hampshire County Retirement System.

(6) Bereavement leave.

(a) In the event of death in the immediate family of an employee, he/she will be granted leave with pay as follows:

[1] Four consecutive working days in the event of the death of mother, father, spouse or child of the employee.

[2] Three consecutive working days in the event of the death of a brother, sister, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandmother, grandfather or a family member residing in the household of the employee.

[3] A single day may be granted by the department head under unusual circumstances.

(b) Bereavement Leave shall not be charged to sick leave or vacation leave.

(7) Personal leave. All permanent employees shall be eligible for three paid days personal leave during the fiscal year. An employee wishing to take a personal leave day shall request permission from the head of the department or the supervising committee at least 48 hours in advance, except in emergencies. A regular full-time permanent and eligible part-time employees may earn one additional day of personal leave per year if he/she has used five or fewer days of sick leave during the previous fiscal year.

(8) Court leave. All employees who are called for jury service, or summoned on behalf of the Town when the employee is not scheduled to work, shall be granted court leave with pay. If the jury fees amount to less than that of the employee's regular rate of compensation, he/she shall be paid by the Town an amount equal to the difference between them. Notice of service shall be filed with the Department Head upon receipt of the summons.

(a) Expenses reimbursed by the court for travel, meals, room hire, etc., shall not be considered part of compensation for jury duty.

(b) Court leave without pay shall be granted when an employee is engaged in personal litigation having no connection with his position as an employee of the Town.

(9) Leave without pay. The Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ may grant leave of absence without pay for periods up to one year in duration if, in the **Personnel Director** ~~Board's~~ opinion, the service of the town will not suffer and/or when a suitable temporary replacement is available.

(10) Maternity leave. Employees shall be eligible for maternity leave in accordance with MGL c. 149, § 105D.

(11) Military leave.

Military leave will be provided in accordance with state and federal laws.
~~(a) Military training duties.~~

~~[1] An employee of the Town who is a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard shall be granted by his or her appointing authority, a leave of absence to perform military training duties in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 52A. Such absence for military training shall not affect the employee's right to receive vacation, sick leave, and other benefits.~~

~~[2] If said employee is full-time and has been in the employment of the Town for at least one continuous year of service, the Town will compensate the employee the difference between the employee's base pay and the amount of military compensation and allowances received by the employee during such period of training not to exceed 17 days for each fiscal year. The employee shall provide the Town with appropriate documentation as requested by the appointing authority.~~

~~[3] All other employees shall be granted by the appointing authority leave without pay for such period.~~

~~(b) An employee of the Town who is in a non-probationary position, working at least 20 hours and is a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, who is ordered to active duty by the President of the United States for a period of time exceeding 30 days shall receive the following benefits:~~

~~[1] The Town shall place the employee on military leave and compensate said employee the difference between his/her base Military Reserve or National Guard pay and his/her normal gross pay of the Town of Belchertown. This benefit is based on the employee's normal work schedule, not including any overtime hours.~~

~~[2] The Town shall extend said employee's health insurance for the duration of the recall with employee's normal contribution in place.~~

~~[3] These benefits shall prevail for the duration of the employee's said recall and is subject to annual review of continued eligibility.~~

~~(c) Any employee who is called to active duty or enlists in the Armed Forces of the United States shall be entitled to the rights provided under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA).~~

~~(d) Pursuant to § 1 of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2003, any employee who has been granted a military leave of absence by the appointing authority because the employee is a member of the army national guard, the air national guard or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, called to active service in the armed forces of the United States after September 11, 2001, shall be entitled to receive pay at his or her regular base salary as such a public employee, and shall not lose any seniority or any accrued vacation leave, sick leave, personal leave, compensatory leave or earned overtime. An employee eligible under this section shall be paid his or her regular base salary as such a public employee for each pay period of such military leave of absence after September 11, 2001, reduced by any amount received from the United States as pay or allowance for military service performed during the same pay period, excluding overtime pay, shift differential pay, hazardous duty pay or any other additional compensation. For the purposes of this section, the words "active service" shall not include active duty for training in the army national guard or air national guard or as a reservist in the armed forces of the United States.~~

(12) Uniforms:

(a) The Public Works Department employees covered by this chapter will be provided with uniforms and safety wear which will be paid for and laundered by the Town as determined by the **Personnel Director** ~~Select Board~~.

(b) Police dispatch personnel covered by this chapter who are required to wear uniforms may have the required uniforms provided by the Town with the prior approval of the Chief of Police.

(13) Longevity.

(a) All full-time employees covered by this chapter will be eligible for longevity increments as follows:

After 10 years of service	$850.00
After 15 years of service	$950.00
After 20 years of service	$1,150.00

(b) The longevity increments will be paid on the anniversary date of each employee on an annual basis. Any person who voluntarily leaves the employment of the Town or who is terminated for a period longer than 90 days and is rehired shall be considered a new employee under this chapter.

(14) Wastewater Weekend Stipend.

(a) A Wastewater Treatment Plant employee who is required to work the weekend to provide coverage will be compensated a stipend of $75 for each weekend worked.

§ 91-7. Grievance Procedures.

A grievance shall be defined as any difference between an employee, a supervisor, or the Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ relating to the interpretation, application, or administration of the By-Law and any questions as to whether the disciplining of an employee is reasonable.

A. Should any employee or group of employees feel aggrieved, adjustment shall be sought as follows:

   (1) Step 1: The employee shall take up the grievance or dispute by presenting it in writing to his Department Head or supervising committee/board within seven calendar days of the date of the grievance or his knowledge of its occurrence. The Department Head or supervising committee/board shall respond in writing to the employee within 14 calendar days.

   (2) Step 2: If the grievance or dispute still remains unadjusted, it shall be presented to the Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ in writing within seven calendar days after the Department Head or supervising committee/board response is due. The Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ shall respond in writing within 30 calendar days of receipt of the grievance. With the exception of classification of positions, the decision of the Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ shall be final and binding to all parties.

B. Grievances involving compensation shall be processed beginning with the Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~.

§ 91-8. Classification and Compensation.

A. The classification of positions in the service of the Town, the establishment of a compensation plan, and its periodic updating is the responsibility of the Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ subject to the approval of the Annual Town Meeting or a Special Town Meeting. No person shall be employed in a position covered by this By-Law except under the terms set forth in the By-Law.

B. All employees covered by this By-Law shall be employed in positions classified according to the Town's Classification-Compensation Plan (Appendix A). Any employee working a part-time hourly schedule shall be paid at the rate for the classification in which employed, based on the actual hours worked.

C. Part-time employees paid on an annual basis, and certain hourly positions, shall receive the rate of compensation according to the Town's Classification-Compensation Plan (Appendix A).

D. Persons appointed to a position shall be compensated at the minimum rate of compensation assigned to the Classification level to which the position is allocated. Persons may be appointed above the minimum rate with the approval of the Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~.

E. Newly hired full-time and regular part-time employees shall be considered probationary employees during their first six (6) months of continuous employment. A full-time or regular part-time employee retained beyond the probationary period shall be considered a permanent full-time or regular part-time employee. A full-time or regular part-time employee separated during the probationary period may be terminated without cause and without notice and shall not have recourse to the grievance procedure. The Town may extend the probationary period in its sole discretion provided that it shall notify the full-time or regular part-time employee of the reason for the extension of the probationary period and that said extension shall not be for an indefinite period. For the purposes of this paragraph, a regular part-time employee shall be an employee that is regularly scheduled to work twenty (20) or more hours per week.

Part-time employees that are regularly scheduled to work less than twenty (20) hours per week, temporary, casual and seasonal employees are not subject to the probationary period, may be terminated without cause and without notice at any time and shall not have recourse to the grievance procedure, if terminated.

F. All employees are eligible for step increases on their anniversary date. Step increases are based upon satisfactory performance as determined by the Department Head or supervising committee. Step increases are not considered to be automatic or based upon length of service. If an employee did not receive the step increase on his/her first anniversary date, he/she will be eligible for the step increase six (6) months following his/her anniversary date. This six (6) month review will apply for an increase from Step 1 to Step 2. The employee may then move to Step 3 on his/her second anniversary if they are deemed qualified to do so.

G. An employee's initial anniversary date will be determined by their first day of employment in a position.

Employees whose positions have been reclassified with new job titles, but substantially the same responsibility, with no change in grade, shall keep their present anniversary date. Any reclassification with a change in grade will trigger a change in anniversary date.

H. A person in a classified position, on being appointed to a position of higher classification, shall receive a promotional pay increase at least equal to the next higher rate of pay. A person in a classified position, on being assigned to a position of lower classification, shall receive a demotion pay decrease at least equal to the next lower rate of pay.

Employees who are at the top step of their grade and receive a reclassification or promotion to a higher grade shall, at a minimum, receive the difference between step 9 and 10 of their current grade. This difference will then be added to their current salary and they will not receive less than this amount in their new grade.

An employee subject to a change in grade, under any circumstance, shall be placed on the appropriate full step.

I. Annually, the Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ shall review the Town's classification-compensation plan and may recommend to the Annual Town Meeting or to any Special Town Meeting such changes as the Personnel **Director** ~~Board~~ deems appropriate for said plan.

§91-9. Reduction in force.

In the event of a reduction in force (layoff) of employees under this chapter, the following shall be in effect:

A. Employees shall retain their seniority and sick leave time provided they are rehired within two years (730 days) of the layoff date. Vacation time owed, but not personal days, will paid.

B. Employees shall retain their seniority and sick leave time, provided they are re-hired within two years (730 days) of the lay-off date. An employee that is laid off will be compensated for his or her accrued, but unused vacation leave. An employee that is laid off will not be compensated for any other accrued, but unused leave, including, but not limited to, sick leave and personal leave.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 14 Voted to appropriate from free cash in the Treasury the sum of $14,437.00 to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 15 Voted to appropriate from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund the sum of $68,000.00 to be used for operations of the Belchertown Community Channel, and anything incidental or related thereto, for the ensuing fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 16 Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,500.00 to the Belchertown Cultural Council expense account to be used for the purpose of providing engaging arts and cultural programming for the Belchertown community.

(Endorsed by Finance Committee 4-0-0)

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 17 Voted to amend the Bylaws of the Town of Belchertown by changing the title of "Town Administrator to "Town Manager" as follows:

- ➢ Delete the words "Town Administrator" in each place they appear in the Town's Bylaws and insert in their place "Town Manager".

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 18 Voted to amend the Bylaws of the Town of Belchertown by changing the title of "Dog Officer(s)" to "Animal Control Officer(s)" as follows:

- Delete the words "Dog Officer(s)" in each place they appear in the Town's Bylaws and insert in their place "Animal Control Officer(s)".

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 19 Voted to amend the Code of the Town of Belchertown, Chapter 1, General provisions, as previously amended, in the following prescribed manner:

- **Article II, §1-2 Noncriminal Disposition, Chapter 15:**
  - **§15-6B, Running at large:**

Fine Allowed:	delete:	$35 insert:	$50
First Offense:	delete:	$10 insert:	$20
Second Offense:	delete:	$20 insert:	$35
Third Offense:	delete:	$35 insert:	$50

  - **§15-6E, Worrying domestic animals:**

Fine Allowed:	delete:	$50 insert:	$100
First Offense:	delete:	$10 insert:	$50
Second Offense:	delete:	$25 insert:	$75
Third Offense:	delete:	$50 insert:	$100

  - **§15-6F, Vicious dog:**

Fine Allowed:	delete:	$100 insert:	$300
First Offense:	delete:	$25 insert:	$100
Second Offense:	delete:	$50 insert:	$200
Third Offense:	delete:	$100 insert:	$300

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 20 Voted to amend the Code of Belchertown, Chapter 15, Animals, Article 1, §15-3A, Establishment of Animal Control Advisory Board, to reduce the Board Members from seven to five members.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 21 Voted to adopt a new fee schedule for the Town Clerk's fees in accordance with G.L. c. 262, §34 as follows:

DESCRIPTION	FEE
Neutered/Spayed Dog License:	$10.00
Intact Dog License:	$15.00
Business Registration Fee:	$50.00
Copy of Birth, Marriage or Death Record:	$15.00

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 22 Voted to authorize the Select Board to enter into one or more lease purchase agreements to lease and/or purchase and to equip Department of Public Works' vehicles and other equipment pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §21C for a period in excess of three years, and to fund the first year payment of such agreements with the amount appropriated in paragraphs 6, 8 and 12 of the Town Budget as voted pursuant to Article 8 at this May 13, 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 23 Voted to accept as a public way the roadway known as Industrial Road, as heretofore laid out by the Select Board and shown on a plan of land entitled "Street Acceptance Plan Industrial Road," dated March 21, 2024, prepared by Sherman & Frydryk, Land Surveyors and recorded at the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Plan 255, Book 105, and on file with the Town Clerk, and authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or permanent easements, to use Industrial Road for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Belchertown and any drainage, utility, access, sight line and/or other easements related thereto.

(Vote – 2/3rd required – 2/3rd counted)

Article 24 Voted to accept as a public way the roadway known as Meadow Pond Road and a Portion of Jasons Way as heretofore laid out by the Select Board and shown on a plan entitled: "Street Acceptance Plan & "As-Built" Conditions Plan, "Meadow Pond Road (and a portion of Jasons Way)" dated December 22, 2023, by Sherman & Frydryk, Land Surveying and Engineering, a Division of Hancock Survey Associates, Inc. and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 255, Pages 96(1-4), and on file with the Town Clerk, and authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in Meadow Pond Road and portions of Jasons Way identified herein for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Belchertown and any drainage, utility, access and/or other easements related thereto, as shown on said plan.

(Vote – 2/3rd required – 2/3rd counted)

Article 25 Voted to amend the Zoning By-Law, as previously amended, by changing Article V §145-16, Dimensional Regulations, Table of Dimensional regulations, in the MDR zone, to distinguish between parcels with and without public sewerage with requirements for each, by inserting the language in italics and deleting the existing Maximum Lot Coverage requirement of 20%, as follows:

Proposed MDR Dimensional Requirements

	Minimum (square feet)	Minimum Frontage (feet)	Maximum Lot Coverage		Minimum		Minimum Lot Width (feet)	Maximum Height (stories)	Maximum Density
				Front[1] (feet)	Rear[2] (feet)	Side[2] (feet)			
MDR *without public sewer*	130,680 (3 acres)	250	*40%*	50	50	50	100	2	6 units per acre
MDR *with public sewer*	*20,000*	*120*	*40%*	*30*	*30*	*20*	*75*	*2*	*10 units per* *acre*

as posted on the town's web site and on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Department,

Article 26 Voted to amend the Zoning By-Law, as previously amended, by amending Article VII §145-29.1, Accessory Apartments, by changing within Item B(3) “33%” to “45%”, and “600” to “900”; by changing within Item B(4) “only one bedroom” to “no more than two bedrooms”; by adding new Item B(12) to read “The applicant must demonstrate off-street parking of 1 space for a studio or one-bedroom apartment, and 2 spaces for a two-bedroom apartment, in addition to the parking required for the original house”; by changing within Item D(3) “75” to “100”; and by changing within Item D(5) “600” to “900”, as posted on the town's web site and on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Department.

(Approved by Planning Board 5-0-0)

(Vote - 2/3rd required – 2/3rd counted)

Article 27 Voted to amend the zoning bylaw, Chapter 145 of the Code of the Town of Belchertown, by amending Chapter 145, Article III, §145-11, Schedule of Use Regulations, Industrial Uses, Item 5 Contractor’s Yard under the column Ag-A, by changing “N” to “SP/P[18]” and adding footnote 18 to the Schedule as follows: “[18]Requires 5 acres or more with 50' setbacks,” as posted on the town's web site and on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Department

(Approved by Planning Board 5-0-0)

(Vote - 2/3rd required – 2/3rd counted)

Article 28 Voted to amend the zoning bylaw, Chapter 145 of the Code of the Town of Belchertown, by adding §145-28.2, Battery Energy Storage Systems, with the text as follows:

§145-28.2, Battery Energy Storage Systems

A. Purpose. This bylaw is to regulate the development of, and to provide for the construction and operation of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). It is also:

(1) to provide standards for the placement, design, construction, monitoring, modification, and removal of energy storage systems that address public safety, minimize detriments to scenic, natural, and historic resources of Belchertown; and

(2) to provide adequate financial assurance for decommissioning.

The provisions set forth in this section shall take precedence over all other sections when considering applications related to the construction, operation, and/or repair of Battery Energy Storage Systems.

Further, this bylaw is to facilitate energy storage while protecting the community by:

(3) providing standards for BESS placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modifications, and removal;

(4) to protect public health, safety or welfare in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40A, § 3 as applicable;

(5) to protect and preserve farmland, forests, and open space as promoted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;

(6) to protect the scenic, natural, and historic resources of Belchertown; and

B. Applicability.

(1) Building-integrated Battery Energy Storage Systems

a. Battery Energy Storage Systems that are building-integrated, whether in a residential or commercial building, shall not be erected, constructed, installed, or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining a building permit from the Building Inspector.

b. Building-integrated battery energy storage systems may be joined with rooftop solar or behind-the-meter applications for reducing peak power demand from the grid.

c. Building-integrated battery energy storage systems may be located in any zoning district of Belchertown.

d. Building-integrated battery energy storage systems are for the exclusive purpose of storing electricity produced on-site and shall not be operated for profit beyond what Federal, State, and utility incentives provide an individual residence or business.

(2) Co-located Battery Energy Storage Systems

   a. Battery Energy Storage Facilities are encouraged to co-locate with both renewable and non-renewable power generation stations, and electrical sub-stations.

   b. Battery Energy Storage Systems associated with on-site renewable electricity generation shall be permitted in all districts where such installations are permitted by Special Permit and Site Plan Approval, and shall meet the requirements for solar photovoltaic installations, §145-128. This does not exempt the BESS location from requirement B (4) below.

(3) Battery Energy Storage systems must meet the siting standards of 145-28B(3).

(4) Battery Energy Storage Systems are not permitted in the Flood Plain and Aquifer Protection overlay zones, nor are they permitted in NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife and NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species regardless of a related renewable generation installation being in such areas.

(5) The nameplate capacity of an Energy Storage system shall not exceed the total kW of energy being produced on the 3-phase distribution line that the energy storage system will be interconnected to.

(6) Modifications to, retrofits, or replacements of an existing battery energy storage system that increase the total battery energy storage system designed discharge duration or power rating shall be subject to this bylaw.

C. Definitions.
ANSI: American National Standards Institute

BATTERY(IES): A single cell or a group of cells connected together electrically in series, in parallel, or a combination of both, which can charge, discharge, and store energy electrochemically. For the purposes of this law, batteries utilized in consumer products are excluded from these requirements.

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: An electronic system that protects energy storage systems from operating outside their safe operating parameters and disconnects electrical power to the energy storage system or places it in a safe condition if potentially hazardous temperatures or other conditions are detected.

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM: a physical container providing secondary containment to one or more battery cells for storing electrical energy derived from solar or directly from the grid that is equipped with cooling, ventilation, fire suppression, and an electronic battery management system. It may be a primary use or accessory to a solar energy facility, power generation facility, an electrical sub-station, or other similar uses.

A Battery Energy Storage System can be classified as a Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 Battery Energy Storage System, as follows:

(1) Tier 1 Battery Energy Storage Systems are defined as building-integrated battery energy storage systems that have an aggregate energy capacity less than or equal to 80 kWh and whose purpose is to store energy produced for on-site consumption, and if in a room or enclosed area, consists of only a single energy storage system technology. The facility must comply with the Massachusetts electrical code (527 CMR. 12.00) and the Massachusetts Fire Code (527 CMR 1.00).
(2) Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems are defined as those that are interconnected to utility distribution lines and have an aggregate energy capacity less than or equal to 10 Megawatts. The facility must comply with the Massachusetts electrical code (527 CMR. 12.00) and the Massachusetts Fire Code (527 CMR 1.00).
(3) Tier 3 Battery Energy Storage Systems are defined as those that are interconnected to high voltage transmission lines and have an aggregate energy capacity greater than 10 Megawatts. The facility must comply with the Massachusetts electrical code (527 CMR. 12.00) and the Massachusetts Fire Code (527 CMR 1.00).

CELL: The basic electrochemical unit, characterized by an anode and a cathode, used to receive, store, and deliver electrical energy.

COMMISSIONING: A systematic process that provides documented confirmation that a battery energy storage system functions according to the intended design criteria and complies with applicable code requirements.

DEDICATED-USE BUILDING: A building that is built for the primary intention of housing battery energy storage system equipment, is classified as Group F-1 occupancy as defined in the International Building Code, and complies with the following:

(1) The building's only use is battery energy storage, energy generation, and other electrical grid-related operations.
(2) No other occupancy types are permitted in the building.
(3) Occupants in the rooms and areas containing battery energy storage systems are limited to personnel that operate, maintain, service, test, and repair the battery energy storage system and other energy systems.
(4) Administrative and support personnel are permitted in areas within the buildings that do not contain battery energy storage system, provided the following:
    a. The areas do not occupy more than 10 percent of the building area of the story in which they are located.
    b. A means of egress is provided from the administrative and support use areas to the public way that does not require occupants to traverse through areas containing battery energy storage systems or other energy system equipment.

Rated Nameplate Capacity: The maximum rated output of electric power production of the energy storage system in alternating current (AC).

Site Plan Approval Authority: The Belchertown Planning Board is the site plan approval authority.

D. All Tier 2 and 3 battery energy storage systems shall require a special permit and site plan approval by the Planning Board prior to construction, installation, or modification as provided in this bylaw.

E. The construction, operation, and decommissioning of all battery storage energy storage systems shall be consistent with all applicable local, state, and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable environmental, safety, construction, fire, and electrical requirements.

F. A building permit and an electrical permit shall be required for installation of all battery energy storage systems.

G. Technical reviews will be performed by the Fire Department, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Department of Public Works, and engineering peer review. Other entities may be required by the Planning Board at its discretion.

H. In addition to requirements for Special Permit and Site Plan Approval, the application shall include the following:

(1) A site plan prepared, stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Massachusetts, that shows the following:
   a. An existing conditions plan with property lines and physical features, including topography and roads, characteristics of vegetation (trees- mature, old growth, shrubs, open field, etc.), wetlands, streams, ledge, active farmland and prime farmland soils, permanently protected open space, Priority Habitat Areas and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape Core Habitat mapped by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and "Important Wildlife Habitat" mapped by the DEP, for the project site;
   b. Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, including grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation or structures, driveways, snow storage, and storm water management systems; including total acreage of disturbed area, total vegetation cleared, not including mowed fields;
   c. Trees with a DBH of 20" or greater within project parcel(s) shall be identified to determine tree loss, along with inventorying of diseased or hazard trees slated to be removed due to proposed development;
   d. Property lines and physical dimensions of the subject property with contour intervals of no more than 10 feet;
   e. Property lines of adjacent parcels within 30 feet;
   f. Names and addresses of all abutters, and abutters to abutters within 300 feet;
   g. Location, dimensions, and types of existing major structures on the property;
   h. Locations of fences and gates;
   i. Location of Knox Box for Fire Department access;

    j. Location of the proposed battery energy storage structures, foundations, and associated equipment;
    k. The right-of-way of any public road that is contiguous with the property;
    l. Any overhead or underground utilities;
    m. Locations of floodplains or inundation areas for moderate or high hazard dams;
    n. Stormwater management and erosion and sediment control.
    o. Zoning setbacks.
    p. Landscaping and screening, with no vegetation within 30' of a box.

(2) A preliminary equipment specification sheet that documents the proposed battery energy storage system components, inverters and associated electrical equipment that are to be installed, including manufacturer and model. A final equipment specification sheet shall be submitted prior to the issuance of building permit;

(3) One- or three-line electrical diagram showing associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all NEC compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;

(4) Contact information and signature of the project proponent, as well as all co-proponents, if any, and all property owners;

(5) Contact information and signature of agents representing the project proponent, if any;

(6) Contact information for the person(s) responsible for public inquiries throughout the life of the system;

(7) An operations and maintenance plan for Battery Energy Storage System. Such plan shall describe continuing battery energy storage system maintenance and property maintenance, as well as design, construction, installation, testing and commissioning information;

(8) Documentation that shows the owner of the Energy Storage System has site control, which shall include easements and access roads;

(9) Documentation that shows the owner of the Energy Storage System has notified the electric utility of this installation.

(10) Emergency Operations Plan. An Emergency Operations Plan must incorporate the management of a worst-case scenario. This will include the plan to protect the air, water, and soil in the vicinity of the BESS. A copy of the approved Emergency Operations Plan shall be given to the system owner and the local fire department. A permanent copy shall also be placed in an approved location to be accessible to facility personnel, fire code officials, and emergency responders. The emergency operations plan shall include the following information:

    a. Procedures for safe shutdown, de-energizing, or isolation of equipment and systems under emergency conditions to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock, and personal injuries, and for safe start-up following cessation of emergency conditions.

b. Procedures for inspection and testing of associated alarms, interlocks, and controls.
c. Procedures to be followed in response to notifications from the Battery Energy Storage Management System, when provided, that could signify potentially dangerous conditions, including shutting down equipment, summoning service and repair personnel, and providing agreed upon notification to fire department personnel for potentially hazardous conditions in the event of a system failure.
d. Emergency procedures to be followed in case of fire, explosion, release of liquids or vapors, damage to critical moving parts, or other potentially dangerous conditions. Procedures can include sounding the alarm, notifying the fire department, evacuating personnel, de-energizing equipment, and controlling and extinguishing the fire.
e. Response considerations similar to a safety data sheet (SDS) that will address response safety concerns and extinguishment when an SDS is not required.
f. Procedures for dealing with battery energy storage system equipment damaged in a fire or other emergency event, including maintaining contact information for personnel qualified to safely remove damaged battery energy storage system equipment from the facility.
g. 24-hour remote monitoring and alarm linked to the owner and to the Fire Department.
h. Monitoring and protection of air, soil, surface waters and ground water near the site.
i. Driveway access sufficient for the fire engine, ladder truck, tanker, and any other emergency equipment.
j. Standpipe to flood any equipment boxes.
k. Other procedures as determined necessary by the Fire Department, Conservation Commission, or Board of Health to provide for the safety of occupants, neighboring properties, and emergency responders.
l. Procedures and schedules for conducting drills of these procedures and for training local first responders on the contents of the plan and appropriate response procedures.
m. This plan must include long-term site cleaning and restoration. This must be on file with the Fire Department, Health Department, Conservation Department, and Department of Public Works.

(13) Proof of liability insurance: The applicant shall be required to provide evidence of liability insurance in an amount and for a duration sufficient to cover loss or damage to persons and property caused by the failure of the system.

1.6 Design and Site Standards

A. In addition to the standards for Special Permit and Site Plan Review in the Zoning Bylaw, the applicant shall adhere to the following standards and provide such information on the site plan:
   1. Utility Lines. All on-site utility lines shall be placed underground to the extent feasible and as permitted by the serving utility.
   2. Signage. The signage shall include the type of technology associated with the systems, any special hazards associated therewith, the type of suppression system installed, and 24-hour emergency contact information. All information shall be clearly displayed on a reflective surface. Clearly visible warning signs concerning voltage shall be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations.
   3. Lighting must be Dark Sky compliant and operated only by motion detectors with no exposed illumination source.
   4. Vegetation and Tree-Cutting. In addition to the clearing of vegetation within 30 feet of a battery container, areas within 10 feet on each side of a system shall be cleared of combustible vegetation and other combustible growth. Single specimens of trees or shrubbery and cultivated ground covers or similar plants shall be exempt provided that they do not form a means of readily transmitting fire. Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to that which is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the system and that which is otherwise prescribed by applicable bylaws and regulations.
   5. Noise. The 1-hour average noise generated from the systems, components, and associated ancillary equipment shall not exceed a noise level of 60 dBA as measured at the property line.
   6. Written agreement with the Fire Chief that annual inspections of the site will be scheduled with the Fire Department.

1.7 Special Permit Criteria

A. The Planning Board may approve an application if the Board finds that the system complies with the Site Plan Review and Approval criteria and with the conditions for granting Special Permits, notably §145-69A. Battery energy storage systems shall also satisfy the following additional criteria:
   1. Environmental features of the site are protected, and surface runoff will not damage surrounding properties or increase soil erosion and sedimentation of nearby streams and ponds.
   2. The Planning Board may also impose conditions as it finds reasonably appropriate to protect the town or neighborhood including, but not limited to, screening, lighting, noise, fences, modification of the exterior appearance of electrical cabinets, battery storage systems, or other structures, limitation upon system size, and means of vehicular access or traffic features.

3. No occupancy shall be allowed by the Building Commissioner, nor shall the site be energized or interconnected to the utility until the Planning Board has received, reviewed, and approved an as-built plan that demonstrates that the work proposed on the approved site plan, including all stormwater management components and associated off-site improvements, have been completed in accordance with the approved plan and certified same to the Building Commissioner.
4. The Planning Board may, in its discretion, approve an as-built plan upon provision of a proper bond, covenant, or third-party agreement to secure incomplete work where such work is not immediately necessary for lawful operation of the system without negative effect on public health and safety and surrounding properties.
5. The applicant shall make every effort to coordinate necessary surveying and finalization of the as-built plans and submission of required construction control documents prior to the conclusion of construction. Notwithstanding the above, a temporary occupancy permit may be granted with the approval of the Planning Board subject to conditions for completion of work imposed by the Board.

1.8 Decommissioning

A. As part of the applicant's submission to the Board, the applicant shall submit a decommissioning plan, to be implemented upon abandonment or in conjunction with removal from property. The plan shall include:
   1. A narrative description of the activities to be accomplished, including who will perform that activity and at what point in time, for complete physical removal of all battery energy storage system components, structures, equipment, security barriers, and transmission lines from the property.
   2. Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.
   3. The anticipated life of the battery energy storage systems.
   4. The estimated decommissioning costs and how said estimate was determined.
   5. The method of ensuring that funds will be available for decommissioning and restoration.
   6. The method by which the decommissioning cost will be kept current.
   7. The manner in which the site will be restored, including a description of how any changes to the surrounding areas and other systems adjacent to the battery energy storage system, such as, but not limited to, structural elements, building penetrations, means of egress, and required fire detection suppression systems, will be protected during decommissioning and confirmed as being acceptable after the system is removed.
   8. A listing of any contingencies for removing an intact operational battery energy storage system from service, and for removing an energy storage system from service that has been damaged by a fire or other event.

B. Decommissioning Fund. The owner and/or operator of the energy storage system, shall continuously maintain a fund or bond payable to the Town of Belchertown, in an approved form for the removal of the battery energy storage system, in an amount to be determined by the Town of Belchertown, for the period of the life of the facility. All costs of the financial security shall be borne by the applicant. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.

C. An inspection of the completed decommissioned area shall be reviewed by a consultant hired by the Planning Board before approving the decommissioning work in accordance with the Decommissioning Plan. The owner and/or operator shall pay for the cost of this review with such payment being provided by the owner and/or operator prior to the consultant undertaking said review, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53G.

1.9 Abandonment

A. The battery energy storage system shall be considered abandoned when it ceases to operate consistently for more than twelve (12) months. The system shall be presumed abandoned if the owner and/or operator fails to respond affirmatively within thirty (30) days to a written inquiry from the Building Commissioner as to the continued validity and operation of the system. If the owner or operator fails to comply with decommissioning upon any abandonment, the Town of Belchertown, may, at its discretion, utilize the available bond or surety for the removal of a system and restore the site in accordance with the decommissioning plan.

(Endorsed by Planning Board 5-0-0)

(Vote – 2/3rd required – 2/3rd counted)

Article 29 Voted to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues the sum of $2,500.00 for the administrative expenses of the Committee in FY 2025; and that the Town reserve for future appropriation from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

- $40,616.00 from FY 2025 Community Preservation fund revenues for Open Space
- $40,616.00 from FY 2025 Community Preservation fund revenues for Historic Resources
- $40,616.00 from FY 2025 Community Preservation fund revenues for Community Housing

And further, appropriate and transfer $68,922.00 from the Community Preservation Fund, Fund Balance to pay debt service on the bonds issued for the acquisition of approximately 80 acres of land located off South Gulf Road, as voted under Article 27 of the June 27, 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 30 Voted to appropriate and transfer $9,900.00 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund for the grave stone preservation and restoration project at the historic South Street Cemetery, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Veterans Graves Officer.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 31 Voted to appropriate and transfer $26,400.00 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund for the purpose of preserving and rehabilitating the historic building owned by the Hope United Methodist Church and located at 29 Main Street, within the Belchertown Historic District, by replacing the roof of said building, and to authorize the Select Board, in consultation with the Historical Commission and the Community Preservation Committee, to enter into said grant agreement.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 32 Voted to appropriate and transfer $8,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund, Fund Balance to purchase and install a storage shed at the Chestnut Hill Community School, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Recreation Department.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 33 Voted to appropriate and transfer $8,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund, Fund Balance to purchase and install a storage shed at Foley Field, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Recreation Department.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 34 Voted to appropriate and transfer $16,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund, Fund Balance, for the Jabish Brook Trestle Bridge engineering assessment and design detail, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Select Board.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 35 Voted to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by purchase, gift and/or eminent domain, for conservation, forestry, and passive recreation purposes, the parcels of land located off State Street, consisting of a total of 94.206 acres, more or less, which parcels of land are identified by the Assessors as Lot 251-54.01 and Lot #50-57 and are a portion of the premises described in deeds recorded with the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Book 12041, Page 62 and Book 9933, Page 313, which parcels shall be under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, §8C and other statutes related to conservation; and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, including, without limitation, from the Community Preservation Fund, and/or borrow the sum of $125,500.00 to fund the acquisition of Lot 251-54.01 and $1.00 for the acquisition of Lot 50-57, and an additional sum of $35,500 to fund costs incidental or related thereto, including, without limitation, the cost of appraisals, surveys, grant applications, stewardship fees, for a total appropriation of $160,501, and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said funds under the provisions of G.L. c.44B, G.L. c.44 and/or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and, further, to grant a restriction on said property meeting the requirements of G.L. c. 184, §§31-33 in compliance with G.L. c.44B, §12(a), and to enter into any and all agreements and execute any and all instruments on behalf of the Town as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the foregoing acquisition.

(Vote – 2/3rd required – 2/3rd counted)

Article 36 Voted to appropriate and transfer $55,400.00 from the Community Preservation Fund, Fund Balance for the installation of historic lighting at Town Hall and Clapp Memorial Library parking lot, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Select Board.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 37 Voted to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund, Fund Balance, $275,000.00 for the rehabilitation of the historic building located at 6 Berkshire Avenue by constructing ADA-compliant access to the building and a first floor ADA accessible bathroom, installing an additional elevator, and making other ADA-related improvements, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Select Board.

(Vote - Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 38 Voted to appropriate and transfer $50,500.00 from the Community Preservation Fund, Fund Balance for the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic Clapp Memorial Library by repairing the north entryway, stairs and landing improvements, including door and access hardware improvements, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Select Board.

(Vote – Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 39 Voted to appropriate and transfer $12,000.00 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund for the repair and restoration of the historic 1877 Steinway Piano owned by the Clapp Memorial Library and located at the Hope United Methodist Church, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Select Board.

Note: Amendment made, seconded and passed by majority count, to correct the name of the Church where the piano is located from Hope United Methodist Church to the Belchertown United Church of Christ.

(Vote – Majority required – Majority counted)

Article 40 Voted to appropriate and transfer $25,500.00 from the Community Preservation Historic Fund, Fund Balance for the restoration of the south stained-glass window at the historic Clapp Memorial Library, with said funds to be expended under the direction of the Select Board.

(Vote – Majority required – Majority counted)

Motion made and seconded to dissolve the meeting
(Vote – Majority required – Majority counted)

Meeting dissolved at 9:33pm

Attest:
Theresa A. Camerlin
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD MAY 13, 2024
FY 25

ARTICLE #	BUDGET OR DEPT	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	FROM TAX LEVY	BORROWING	FREE CASH	FROM STABILIZATION	FROM OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS
1-3	None						
4	Assessors-Legal Counsel in resolving court tax cases	**$100.00**	$100.00				
5	Reserve Fund for Finance Committee use	**$155,000.00**	$30,000.00		$125,000.00		
6	None						
7	Cemetery Lot Development Account	**$5,000.00**					$5,000.00 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots Account
8	**Itemized Budget**						
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT (Total)	**$2,439,022.00**					
	1. Select Board - Salary				$12,600.00		
	Expenses				$4,990.00		
	2. Town Manager, Salary				$152,500.00		
	Wages				$127,750.00		
	Expenses				$10,421.00		
	3. Town Accountant, Salary		$64,797.00		$38,226.00		
	Wages		$135,755.00				
	Expenses		$38,250.00				
	4. Town Clerk, Salary		$99,060.00				
	Wages		$67,387.00				
	Expenses		$11,477.00				
	5. Treasurer/Tax Collector, Salary		$94,142.00				
	Wages		$131,000.00				
	Expenses		$74,136.00				
	6. M.I.S. Department, Salary		$108,174.00				
	Wages		$130,846.00				
	Expenses		$293,600.00				
	7. Board of Assessors , Salary		$106,223.00				
	Wages		$258,966.00				
	Expenses		$23,650.00				
	8. Law Account, Fees		$67,800.00				
	9. Finance Committee, Expenses		$250.00				
	10. Election & Registration, Salary		$550.00				
	Wages		$29,290.00				
	Expenses		$20,250.00				
	11. Planning Board, Salary		$108,174.00				
	Wages		$16,379.00				
	Expenses		$3,140.00				
	12. Board of Appeals, Wages		$2,300.00				
	Expenses		$450.00				
	13. Economic Development I.C., Expenses		$375.00				
	14. Chapter 137 Military Leave Pay, Expenses		$100.00				
	15. Cable Access TV Oper., Expenses		$1,500.00				
	16. Agricultural Commission, Expenses		$500.00				
	17. Conservation Commission, Salary		$80,541.00				
	Wages		$0.00				
	Expenses		$7,100.00				
	18. Lakes Committee, Expenses		$4,000.00				
	19. Human Resources Director, Salary		$103,023.00				
	Expenses		$9,350.00				
	PUBLIC SAFETY	**$5,486,864.00**					
	20. Police Department, Salary						$254,982.00 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriate Account
	Wages		$975,011.00				$1,035,018.00 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriate Account
	Expenses		$415,276.00				

CERTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD MAY 13, 2024
FY 25

ARTICLE #	BUDGET OR DEPT	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	FROM TAX LEVY	BORROWING	FREE CASH	FROM STABILIZATION	FROM OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS
	21. Fire Department, Salary		$135,000.00				
	Wages		$1,876,243.00				
	Expenses		$443,938.00				
	22. Injured on Duty, Expenses		$5,000.00				
	23. Hydrant Service, Expenses		$28,456.00				
	24. Animal Control , Wages		$97,741.00				
	Expenses		$16,750.00				
	25. Inspection Services, Salary		$103,023.00				
	Wages		$81,836.00				
	Expenses		$16,250.00				
	26. Civil Defense, Wages		$350.00				
	Expenses		$1,990.00				
	PUBLIC SCHOOLS						
	27. Town School Department	**$33,185,396.00**					
	Foundation Spending		$32,376,926.00		$808,470.00		
	REGIONAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT						
	28. Pathfinder Reg. Voc. Tech High School District	**$1,589,589.00**					
	Net Budget		$1,589,589.00				
	DPW – Highways	**$2,271,334.00**					
	29. Highways/Personnel						
	Salary		$122,297.00				
	Wages		$975,870.00				
	Uniforms		$15,800.00				
	Expenses		$2,000.00				
	30. Highway Admin., Expenses		$22,290.00				
	31. Snow & Ice Control, Expenses		$242,000.00				
	32. DPW-Road Machinery, Expenses		$241,437.00				
	33. Hired Services, Expenses		$265,500.00				
	34. Street Lighting, Expenses		$52,000.00				
	35. Streets/Construction, Expenses		$229,000.00				
	36. Professional Engineering, Expenses		$60,900.00				
	37. Town Garage, Expenses		$42,240.00				
	SANITATION & ENVIRONMENTAL						
	38. Transfer Station (Total)	**$416,911.00**					
	Wages						$113,160.00 from Landfill Receipts,
	Expenses						$246,840.00 from Landfill Receipts, $56,911.00 from Landfill Enterprise free cash
	Sewer Enterprise Fund (Total)	**$1,624,262.00**					
	Wages						$104,262.00 from Sewer Enterprise free cash and $334,208.00 from Sewer Enterprise receipts
	Expenses						$961,823.00 from Sewer Enterprise receipts
	Maturing Debt						$210,063.00 from Sewer Enterprise receipts
	Maturing Debt Interest						$13,906.00 from Sewer Enterprise receipts
	40. Stormwater Utility Fund (Total)	**$302,351.00**					
	Wages						$111,865.00 from Stormwater Utility Enterprise receipts
	Expenses						$108,135.00 from Stormwater Utility Enterprise receipts and $82,351.00 from Stormwater Enterprise free cash
	HUMAN SERVICES (Total)	**$1,000,342.00**					
	41. Board of Health, Salary		$2,825.00				
	Wages		$5,500.00				
	Expenses		$6,956.00				
	42. Council on Aging, Salary		$99,060.00				
	Wages		$488,545.00				
	Expenses		$25,800.00				

CERTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD MAY 13, 2024
FY 25

ARTICLE #	BUDGET OR DEPT	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	FROM TAX LEVY	BORROWING	FREE CASH	FROM STABILIZATION	FROM OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS
	43. Veterans Services Agent, Salary		$94,176.00				
	Expenses		$4,480.00				
	Veterans' Benefits		$241,000.00				
	44. Veterans' Graves - Expenses		$2,625.00				
	45. DPW - Cemetery Department, Expenses		$29,275.00				
	46. Mobile Home/Rent Control Board, Expenses		$100.00				
	CULTURE AND RECREATION	**$1,004,441.00**					
	47. Clapp Memorial Library, Salary		$90,811.00				
	Wages		$375,155.00				
	Expenses		$142,618.00				
	48. Parks and Recreation, Salary		$99,060.00				
	Wages		$253,324.00				
	Expenses		$11,745.00				
	49. Parks & Recreation Pool, Expenses		$27,350.00				
	50. Parks & Recreation Beach, Expenses		$2,470.00				
	51. Family Center, Expenses		$1,908.00				
	DPW – BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (Total)	**$980,655.00**					
	52. DPW-Maintenance/Grounds, Wages		$489,100.00				
	Expenses		$99,665.00				
	53. DPW-Lawrence Memorial Hall, Expenses		$71,975.00				
	54. DPW-Town Common, Expenses		$7,450.00				
	55. DPW-Town Clock, Wages		$600.00				
	56. DPW-Finnerty House		$12,450.00				
	57. DPW-Old Town Hall, Expenses		$10,455.00				
	58. DPW-Senior Center Bldg., Expenses		$69,319.00				
	59. DPW-Recreation Bldg., Expenses		$32,454.00				
	60. DPW-Police Station, Expenses		$55,809.00				
	61. DPW-EMS Bldg., Expenses		$12,295.00				
	62. DPW-Freedom Center, Expenses		$25,404.00				
	63. DPW-Fire Station, Expenses		$59,664.00				
	64. DPW-Franklin School Bldg, Expenses		$2,830.00				
	65. DPW-Tagell/MEMA Space, Expenses		$22,845.00				
	66. Animal Control Building		$8,340.00				
	PENSIONS AND INSURANCE	**$6,739,291.00**					
	67. General Insurance, Expenses		$637,533.00				
	68. Unemployment Insurance, Expenses		$20,600.00				
	69. Workers Compensation Insurance, Expenses		$8,000.00				
	70. Fringe Benefits Twn Share, Expenses		$1,575,500.00				
	71. Pensions, Expenses		$4,497,658.00				
	UNCLASSIFIED ACCOUNTS	**$84,098.00**					
	72. Historical Commission, Expenses		$500.00				
	73. Historic District, Expenses		$348.00				
	74. Patriotic Exercises, Expenses		$300.00				
	75. Printing Annual Reports, Expenses		$2,000.00				
	76. Unclassified Accts, Expenses		$80,950.00				
	INTEREST & MATURING DEBT	**$931,333.00**					
	77. Interest, Expenses		$236,333.00				
	78. Maturing Debt, Expenses		$695,000.00				

CERTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD MAY 13, 2024
FY 25

ARTICLE #	BUDGET OR DEPT	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	FROM TAX LEVY	BORROWING	FREE CASH	FROM STABILIZATION	FROM OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS
9	One-time and/or capital items	**$187,681.00**					
	1. TORO ZTR Mower with Accessories, purchase and equip				$21,500.00		
	2. 20' Trailer, purchase and equip				$10,000.00		
	3. Leaf Vac				$8,100.00		
	4. LMH carpet replacement				$9,505.00		
	5. Fire Station, Senior Center & Recreation Building Doors, includes 1 opener				$28,200.00		
	6. Finnerty House Storm Windows				$5,000.00		
	7. Finnerty House HVAC				$17,300.00		
	8. Automotive Lift with 16,000# capacity				$35,000.00		
	9. Three point hitch mounted offset mower, purchase and equip				$31,000.00		
	10. Fire Station living quarters				$22,076.00		
10	Stabilization Fun	**$86,622.00**			$86,622.00		
11	Replacement of generator and SCADA system at the wastewater treatment plant	**$1,000,000.00**		$1,000,000.00			
12-13	None						
14	**OPEB Liability Trust Fund**	**$14,437.00**			$14,437.00		
15	**BELCHERTOWN COMMUNITY CHANNEL,** Operations	**$68,000.00**					$68,000.00 from Peg Access & Cable Related Fund
16	**BELCHERTOWN CULTURAL COUNCIL**	**$3,500.00**					
	Expense		$3,500.00				
17-28	None						
29	1. Community Preservation Fund - Admin Exp.	**$2,500.00**					$2,500.00 from FY24 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues
	2. Community Preservation Fund - Open Space	**$40,616.00**					$40,616.00 from FY24 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Open Space
	3. Community Preservation Fund – Historic Resources	**$40,616.00**					$40,616.00 from FY24 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Historic Resources
	4. Community Preservation Fund – Community Housing	**$40,616.00**					$40,616.00 from FY24 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Community Housing
	5. Pay CPA debt service on bonds voted under Article 27 @ June 27, 2020 Annual Town Mtg .	**$68,922.00**					$68,922.00 from Community Preservation Fund Balance to pay debt service on bonds issued as voted under Article 27 of the June 27, 2020 Annual Town Meeting
30	Gravestone preservation and restoration project at the historic South Cemetery.	**$9,900.00**					$9,900.00 from Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund
31	Preservation and rehabilitation of the historic building owned by the Hope United Methodist Church at 29 Main St.	**$26,400.00**					$26,400.00 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund
32	Purchase and installation of a storage shed at Chestnut Hill Community School	**$8,000.00**					$8,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance
33	Purchase and installation of a storage shed at Foley Field	**$8,000.00**					$8,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance
34	Jabish Brook Trestle Bridge engineering assessment and design detail	**$16,000.00**					$16,000.00 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund
35	Purchase of land located off State St consisting of a total of 94.206 acres. Assessors lot 251-54.01 and Lot #50-57	**$160,501.00**					$160,501.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance
36	Installation of historic lighting at Town Hall and Clapp Memorial Library parking lot	**$55,400.00**					$55,400 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance
37	Rehabilitation of the historic building located at 6 Berkshire Ave.	**$275,000.00**					$275,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance
38	Rehabilitation of the historic Clapp Memorial Library	**$50,500.00**					$50,500.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance

CERTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD MAY 13, 2024
FY 25

ARTICLE #	BUDGET OR DEPT	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	FROM TAX LEVY	BORROWING	FREE CASH	FROM STABILIZATION	FROM OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS
39	Repair and restoration of the historic 1877 Steinway Piano owned by the Clapp Memorial Library	**$12,000.00**					$12,000.00 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund
40	Restoration of the south stained-glass window at the historic Clapp Memorial Library	**$25,500.00**					$25,500.00 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Fund
TOTAL		**$60,416,700.00**	**$53,301,008.00**	**$1,000,000.00**	**$1,568,697.00**	**$0.00**	**$4,520,052.00**
	Attest:						
	Theresa A. Camerlin						
	Town Clerk						

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES JUNE 24, 2024

Actions taken at the Special Town Meeting held June 24, 2024 at the Belchertown High School Gymnasium

Moderator – Benjamin Farrell
Registered voters present – 11 (Quorum requires 75)

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm, a quorum was not present. Motion made, seconded and voted to adjourn without a future date at 7:01pm.

Attest:

Theresa A. Camerlin
Town Clerk

End of Report